

THE
SIEGE
OF
DAMASCUS.
A
TRAGEDY.

BY
JOHN HUGHES, Esq;

To which is prefixed,
The LIFE of the AUTHOR.

EDINBURGH:

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M. DCC. LXXVIII

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THE
L I F E
OF

JOHN HUGHES, Esq;

THIS amiable man, and elegant author, was the son of a citizen of London, and was born at Marlborough in Wiltshire, on the 29th of Jan. 1677, but received the rudiments of his education in private schools at London. Even in the very earliest parts of life, his genius seem'd to shew itself equally inclin'd to each of the three sister arts, Music, Poetry, and Design, in all which he made a very considerable progress. To his excellence in these qualifications, his coterminous and friend, Sir Richard Steele, bears the following extraordinary testimonial : " He may (says that Author) be the emulation of more persons of different talents than any one I have ever known. His head, hands, or heart, were always employed in something worthy imitation. His pencil, his bow, or his pen, each of which he used in a masterly manner, were always

"directed to raise and entertain his own mind, or that
"of others, to a more cheerful prosecution of what is
"noble and virtuous." Such is the evidence borne to
his talents by a writer of the first rank; yet he seems,
for the most part, to have pursued these and other po-
lite studies, little farther than by the way of agreeable
amusements, under frequent confinement, occasioned by
indisposition, and a valetudinarian state of health.

Mr Hughes had, for some time, an employment in
the Office of Ordnance, and was Secretary to two or
three Commissioners under the Great Seal for the pur-
chase of lands, in order to the better serving the docks
and harbours at Portsmouth, Chatham and Harwich.

In the year 1717, the Lord Chancellor Cowper, to
whom our Author had not long been known, thought
proper, without any previous solicitation, to nominate
him his secretary for the commissions of the peace, and
to distinguish him with singular marks of his favour
and affection; and, upon his Lordship's laying down
the Great Seal, he was, at the particular recommenda-
tion of this his patron, and with the ready concurrence
of his successor the Earl of Macclesfield, continued in
the same employment, which he held till the time of
his decease, the 17th of Feb. 1719, being the very
night on which his celebrated tragedy of *The Siege of
Damascus* made its first appearance on the stage; when,
after a life mostly spent in pain and sickness, he was
carried off by a consumption, having but barely com-
pleted his 42d year, and at a period in which he had
just arrived at an agreeable competence, and was ad-
vancing, with rapid steps, towards the pinnacle of fame
and fortune. He was privately buried in the vault un-
der the chancel of St Andrew's church in Holburn.

As a MAN, the worthy mention made of him by
numbers of his cotemporary writers, is sufficient to
give us the most exalted idea of his virtues; and, as a
WRITER, no stronger proof can be offered of the
esteem he was held in by the truest judges of poetry,
than to mention that the great Mr Addison, after ha-

H U G H E S.

ving suffered the four first acts of his tragedy to ly by him for several years, without putting the finishing hand to the piece, at length fix'd on Mr Hughes, whom he earnestly persuaded to undertake the task, as the only person capable of it, to add a fifth act to it. And though that author afterwards thought proper to undertake it himself, yet it was by no means from any diffidence of this gentleman's abilities, but from the just reflection that no one could have so perfect a notion of his design as himself, who had been so long and so carefully thinking of it.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE time of the following action is about two years after Mahomet's death, under the next succeeding Caliph Abubeker. The Saracen Caliphs were supreme both in spiritual and temporal affairs ; and Abubeker, following the steps of Mahomet, had made a considerable progress in propagating his new superstition by the sword. He had sent a numerous army into Syria, under the command of Caled, a bold and bloody Arabian, who had conquered several towns. The spirit of enthusiasm, newly pour'd forth among them, acted in its utmost vigour ; and the persuasion, that they who turn'd their backs in fight were accursed of God, and that they who fell in battle pass'd immediately into paradise, made them an overmatch for all the forces which the Grecian Emperor Heraclius could send against them. It was a very important period of time, and the eyes of the whole world were fix'd with ter-

viii INTRODUCTION.

ror on these successful savages, who committed all their barbarities under the name of religion ; and soon after, by extending their conquests over the Grecian empire, and through Persia and Egypt, laid the foundation of that mighty empire of the Saracens, which lasted for several centuries ; to which the Turks of later years succeeded.

The Saracens were now set down before Damascus, the capital city of Syria, when the action of this tragedy begins. This was about the year of our Lord 634. All who have written of those times represent the state of Christianity in great confusion, very much corrupted, and divided with controversies and disputes, which, together with an universal depravity of manners, and the decay of good policy and ancient discipline in the empire, gave a mighty advantage to Mahomet and his followers, and prepar'd the way for their amazing success.

P R O L O G U E.

Spoken by Mr M I L L s.

O F T has the Muse here try'd her magic arts,
To raise your fancies, and engage your hearts :
When o'er this little spot she shakes her wand,
Towns, cities, nations, rise at her command;
And armies march obedient to her call;
Now states are form'd, and ancient empires fall.
To vary your instruction and delight,
Past ages roll renew'd before your sight.
His awful form the Greek and Roman wears,
Wak'd from his slumber of two thousand years :
And man's whole race, restor'd to joy and pain,
Att all their little greatness o'er again.

No common woes to-night we set to view;
Important is the time, the story new.
Our opening scenes shall to your sight disclose
How spiritual dragooning first arose;
Claims drawn from Heav'n by a Barbarian lord,
And faith first propagated by the sword.
In rocky Araby this pest began,
And swiftly o'er the neighbour-country ran.
By faction weaken'd, and disunion broke,
Degenerate provinces admit the yoke.
Nor stopp'd their progress, till, resistless grown,
Th' enthusiasts made all Asia's world their own.
Britons, be warn'd; let e'en your pleasures here
Convey some moral to th' attentive ear.
Beware lest blessings long possess'd displease,
Nor grew supine with liberty and ease.

X PROLOGUE.

*Your country's glory be your constant aim,
Her safety all is yours; think yours her fame.
Unite at home—forego intestine jars;
Then scorn the rumours of religious wars;
Speak loud in thunder from your guarded shores,
And tell the Continent, the sea is yours.
Speak on—and say, by war you'll peace maintain,
Till brightest years, reserv'd for GEORGE's reign,
Advance, and shine in their appointed round;
Arts then shall flourish, plenteous joys abound,
And, cheer'd by him, each loyal muse shall sing
The happiest island, and the greatest KING.*

P R O L O G U E,

Spoken by Mr MILWARD,
On the Revival in March 1734-5.

HERE force and fancy, with united charms,
Mingle the sweets of love with war's alarms.
Our Author shows, in eastern pomp array'd,
The conq'ring hero and the constant maid.
None better knew such noble heights to soar,
Tho' Phædra, and tho' Cato charm'd before.

While in the lustre of his glowing lines
Th' Arabian paradise so gayly shines,
With winy rivers, racy fruits supply'd,
And beauties sparkling in immortal pride,
Gallants, you'll own, that a restless fire
Did justly their enamour'd breasts inspire.

At first, a numerous audience crown'd this play,
And kind applause mark'd its happy way,
While he, like his own Phœyas, snatch'd from view,
To fairer realms with ripen'd glory flew.
Humane, tho' witty; humble, tho' admir'd;
Wept by the great, the virtuous sage expir'd!

Still may the Bard, beneath kind planets born,
Whom ev'ry Grace and every Muse adorn,
Whose spreading fame has reach'd to foreign lands,
Receive some tribute too from British bands.

Dramatis Personæ.

C H R I S T I A N S.

EUMENES, governor of Damascus.

HERBIS, his friend, one of the chiefs of the city.

PHOCYAS, a noble and valiant Syrian, privately in love with Eudocia.

ARTAMON, an officer of the guards.

SERGIUS, an express from the Emperor Heraclius.

EUDOCIA, daughter of Eumenes.

Officers, Soldiers, Citizens, and Attendants.

S A R A C E N S.

CALED, general of the Saracen army.

ABUDAH, the next in command under Caled.

DARAN, a wild Arabian, professing Mahometanism for the sake of the spoil.

SERFABIL, } Saracen captains.
RAPHAN, &c. }

Officers, Soldiers, Attendants.

S C E N E, *The City of Damascus in Syria, and the Saracen camp before it. And in the last Act, a Valley adjacent.*

T H E
SIEGE of DAMASCUS.

A C T I. S C E N E I.

The City.

Enter EUMENES, follow'd by a crowd of people.

EUMENES.

I'LL hear no more. Be gone !
Or stop your clamorous mouths, that still are open
To bawl sedition, and consume our corn.
If you will follow me, send home your women,
And follow to the walls ; there earn your safety,
As brave men shou'd.—Pity your wives and children ?
Yes, I do pity them, Heav'n knows I do,
E'en more than you ; nor will I yield 'em up,
Tho' at your own request, a prey to ruffians—
Herbis, what news ?

Enter HERBIS.

Herb. News !—We're betray'd, deserted ;
The works are but half mann'd ; the Saracens
Perceive it, and pour on such crouds, they blunt
Our weapons, and have drain'd our stores of death.
What will you next ?

Eum. I've sent a fresh recruit ;
The valiant Phocyas leads 'em on—whose deeds,
In early youth assert his noble race ;
A more than common ardor seems to warm
His breast, as if he lov'd and courted danger.

Herb. I fear 'twill be too late.

VOL. IV.

B

14 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act I.

Eum. [Aside.] I fear it too :
And tho' I brav'd it to the trembling crowd,
I've caught th' infection, and I dread th' event.
Wou'd I had treated,—but 'tis now too late.—
Come, Herbis.

[Exeunt.

[A noise is heard without, of officers giving orders.
1 Off. Help there ! more help ! all to the eastern gate.
2 Off. Look where they cling aloft like cluster'd bees :
Here, archers, ply your bows.
1 Off. Down with the ladders ;
What ! will you let them mount ?
2 Off. Aloft there ! give the signal, you that wait
In St Mark's tower.
1 Off. Is the town asleep ?
Ring out th' alarm bell.
[Bell rings, and the citizens run to and fro in con-
fusion. A great shout.

Enter HERBIS.

Herb. So—the tide turns ; Phocyas has driv'n it back.
The gate once more is ours.

Enter EUMENES, PHOCYAS, ARTAMON, &c.

Eum. Brave Phocyas, thanks ! mine and the people's
thanks ! [People shout, and cry, A Phocyas ! &c.
Yet, that we may not lose this breathing space,
Hang out the flag of truce. You Artamon,
Haste with a trumpet to th' Arabian chiefs,
And let them know, that, hostages exchang'd,
I'd meet them now upon the eastern plain.

[Exit Artamon.

Pho. What means Eumenes ?

Eum. Phocyas, I wou'd try
By friendly treaty, if on terms of peace
They'll yet withdraw their powers.

Pho. On terms of peace ?

What peace can you expect from bands of robbers ?
What terms from slaves, but slavery ?—You know
These wretches fight not at the call of honour ;
For injur'd rights, or birth, or jealous greatness,
That sets the princes of the world in arms.
Base-born, and starv'd amidst their stony deserts,

Act I. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. 15

Long have they view'd from far with wishing eyes
Our fruitful vales, our fig-trees, olives, vines,
Our cedars, palms, and all the verdant wealth
That crowns fair Lebanon's aspiring brows.
Here have the locusts pitch'd, nor will they leave
These tasted sweets, these blooming fields of plenty,
For barren sands, and native poverty,
Till driv'n away by force.

Eum. What can we do?

Our people in despair, our soldiers harrass'd
With daily toil, and constant nightly watch :
Our hope of succours from the Emperor
Uncertain ; Eutyches not yet return'd,
That went to ask them : one brave army beaten ;
Th' Arabians numerous, cruel, flush'd with conquest.

Herb. Besides, you know what frenzy fires their minds,
Of their new faith, and drives them on to danger.

Eum. True ;—they pretend the gates of paradise
Stand ever open to receive the souls
Of all that die in fighting for their cause.

Pho. Then wou'd I send their souls to paradise,
And give their bodies to our Syrian eagles.
Our ebb of fortune is not yet so low
To leave us desperate. Aids may soon arrive :
Mean time, in spite of their late bold attack,
The city still is ours ; their force repell'd,
And therefore weaker ; proud of this success,
Our soldiers too have gain'd redoubled courage,
And long to meet them on the open plain.
What hinders then but we repay this outrage,
And fall on their camp ?

Eum. No—let us first
Believe th' occasion fair, by this advantage,
To purchase their retreat on easy terms :
That failing, we the better stand acquitted
To our own citizens. Howe'er, brave Phocyas,
Cherish this ardor in the soldiery,
And in our absence form what force thou canst.
Then, if these hungry blood-hounds of the war
Shou'd still be deaf to peace, at our return.

Our widen'd gates shall pour a sudden flood
Of vengeance on them, and chastise their scorn. [Ex.

S C E N E II.

Changes to a plain before the city. A prospect of tents at a distance.

CALED, ABUDAH, DARAN.

Dar. To treat, my chiefs? — What, are we merchants then,

That only came to traffic with these Syrians,
And poorly cheapen conquest on conditions?
No; we were sent to fight the Caliph's battles,
Till every iron neck bend to obedience.

Another storm makes this proud city ours;
What need to treat? — I am for war and plunder.

Cal. Why, so am I—and but to save the lives
Of Mussulmans, not Christians, wou'd not treat.
I hate these Christian dogs; and 'tis our task,
As thou observ'st, to fight; our law enjoins it,
Heav'n too is promis'd only to the valiant.
Oft' has our Prophet said, the happy plains
Above ly stretch'd beneath the blaze of swords.

Abu. Yet Daran's loth to trust that Heav'n for pay:
This earth, it seems, has gifts that please him more.

Cal. Check not his zeal, Abudah.

Abu. No; I praise it.
Yet I could wish that zeal had better motives.
Has victory no fruits but blood and plunder?
That we were sent to fight, 'tis true; but wherefore?
For conquest, not destruction. That obtain'd,
The more we spare, the Caliph has more subjects,
And Heav'n is better serv'd.—But see they come.

Enter EUMENES, HERBIS, ARTAMON.

Cal. Well, Christians, we are met—and war awhile,
At your request, has still'd its angry voice,
To hear what you'll propose.

Eum. We come to know,

ACT I. THE SIEGE OF DAMASCUS.

17

After so many troops you've lost in vain,
If you'll draw off in peace, and save the rest.

Herb. Or rather to know first—for yet we know not—
Why on your heads you call our pointed arrows,
In our own just defence? What means this visit?
And why we see so many thousand tents
Rise in the air, and whiten all our fields?

Cal. Is that a question now?—you had our summons,
When first we march'd against you, to surrender.
Two moons have wasted since, and now the third
Is in its wane. 'Tis true, drawn off awhile
At Aizuadin we met, and fought the powers
Sent by your Emperor to raise our siege.
Vainly you thought us gone; we gain'd a conquest.
You see we are return'd; our hearts, our cause,
Our swords the same.

Herb. But why those swords were drawn,
And what's that cause, inform us.

Eum. Speak your wrongs,
If wrongs you have receiv'd, and by what means
They may be now repair'd.

Abu. Then, Christians, hear!
And Heav'n inspire you to embrace its truth!
Not wrongs t' avenge, but to establish right,
Our swords were drawn: for such is Heav'n's command
Immutable. By us great Mahomet,
And his successor, holy Abubeker,
Invite you to the faith.

Art. aside.] So—then it seems
There's no harm meant; we're only to be beaten
Into a new religion — If that's all,
I find I am already half a convert.

Eum. Now in the name of Heav'n, what faith is this
That stalks gigantic forth, thus arm'd with terrors,
As if it meant to ruin, not to save?
That leads embattled legions to the field,
And marks its progress out with blood and slaughter?
Herb. Bold frontless men! that impudently dare
To blend religion with the worst of crimes!

18 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act I.

And sacrilegiously usurp that name
To cover frauds and justify oppression !

Eum. Where are your priests ? what doctors of your law
Have you e'er sent, t' instruct us in its precepts ?
To solve our doubts, and satisfy our reason,
And kindly lead us thro' the wilds of error
To these new tracts of truth ?—This wou'd be friendship,
And well might claim our thanks.

Cal. Friendship like this
With scorn had been receiv'd ; your numerous vices,
Your clashing sects, your mutual rage and strife
Have driv'n religion, and her angel guards
Like out-casts from among you. In her stead,
Usurping superstition bears the sway,
And reigns in mimic state, 'midst idol shews,
And pageantry of power. Who does not mark
Your lives ? rebellious to your own great Prophet
Who mildly taught you—therefore Mahomet
Has brought the sword to govern you by force,
Nor will accept obedience so precarious.

Eum. O solemn truths, tho' from an impious tongue!

[Aside.]

That we're unworthy of our holy faith,
To Heav'n with grief and conscious shame we own.
But what are you that thus arraign our vices,
And consecrate your own ? vile hypocrites !
Are you not sons of rapine, foes to peace,
Base robbers, murderers—

Cal. Christian, No—

Eum. Then say,
Why have you ravag'd all our peaceful borders ?
Plunder'd our towns ? and by what claim e'en now
You tread this ground ?

Herb. What claim, but that of hunger ?
The claim of ravenous wolves, that leave their dens
To prowl at midnight, round some sleeping village,
Or watch the shepherd's folded flock for prey ?

Cal. Blasphemers, know, your fields and towns are ours,
Our Prophet has bestow'd 'em on the faithful,
And Heav'n itself has ratify'd the grant.

Act I. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS.

19

Eum. Oh ! now indeed you boast a noble title !
What cou'd your Prophet grant ? a hireling slave !
Not e'en the mules and camels which he drove
Were his to give ; and yet the bold impostor
Has canton'd out the kingdoms of the earth,
In frantic fits of visionary power,
To soothe his pride, and bribe his fellow-madmen !

Cal. Was it for this you sent to ask a parley,
T' affront our faith, and to traduce our Prophet ?
Well might we answer you with quick revenge
For such indignities.— Yet hear once more,
Hear this our last demand ; and this accepted
We yet withdraw our war. Be Christians still,
But swear to live with us in firm alliance,
To yield us aid, and pay us annual tribute.

Eum. No :—should we grant you aid, we must be rebels ;
And tribute is the slavish badge of conquest.
Yet since, on just and honourable terms,
We ask but for our own — Ten silken vests,
Weighty with pearl and gems, we'll send your Caliph ;
Two, Caled, shall be thine ; two thine, Abudah.
To each inferior captain we decree
A turbant spun from our Damascus' flax
White as the snows of Heav'n ; to every soldier
A scimitar. This, and of solid gold
Ten ingots, be the price to buy your absence.

Cal. This, and much more, e'en all your shining wealth,
Will soon be ours ; look round your Syrian frontiers !
See, in how many towns our hoisted flags
Are waving in the wind ; Sachna, and Hawran,
Proud Tadmor, Aracah, and stubborn Bosra,
Have bow'd beneath the yoke ;—behold our march
O'er half your land, like flame thro' fields of harvest,
And last view Aiznadin, that vale of blood !
There seek the souls of forty thousand Greeks
That, fresh from life, yet hover o'er their bodies.
Then think, and then resolve.

Herb. Presumptuous men !
What tho' you yet can boast successful guilt ;
Is conquest only yours ? or dare you hope

That you shall still pour on the swelling tide,
Like some proud river that has left its banks,
Nor ever know repulse?

Eum. Have you forgot?

Not twice seven years are past since e'en your prophet
Bold as he was, and boasting aid divine,
Was by the tribe of Coresh forc'd to fly,
Poorly to fly, to save his wretched life,
From Mecca to Medina?

Abu. No;—forgot?

We well remember how Medina skreen'd
That holy head, preserv'd for better days,
And ripening years of glory!

Dar. Why, my chiefs,
Will you waste time, in offering terms despis'd
To these idolaters?—Words are but air,
Blows wou'd plead better,

Cal. Daran, thou say'st true.
Christians, here end our truce. Behold, once more
The sword of Heav'n is drawn! nor shall be sheath'd
But in the bowels of Damascus.

Eum. That,
Or speedy vengeance, and destruction due
To the proud menacers, as Heav'n sees fit!

[*Exeunt severally.*

S C E N E III.

Changes to a Garden.

EUDOCIA.

All's hush'd around!—No more the shouts of soldiers
And clash of arms tumultuous fill the air.
Methinks this interval of terror seems
Like that when the loud thunder just has roll'd
O'er our affrighted heads, and in the Heav'n's
A momentary silence but prepares
A second and a louder clap to follow.

Enter PHOCIAS.

O no—my hero comes, with better omens,
And every gloomy thought is now no more.

Act I. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS.

21

Pho. Where is the treasure of my soul?—Eudocia;
Behold me here impatient, like the miser
That often steals in secret to his gold,
And counts with trembling joy, and jealous transport,
The shining heaps which he still fears to lose.

Eud. Welcome, thou brave, thou best deserving lover!
How do I doubly share the common safety,
Since 'tis a debt to thee!—but tell me, Phocyas,
Dost thou bring peace?—thou dost, and I am happy!

Pho. Not yet, Eudocia; 'tis decreed by Heav'n
I must do more to merit thy esteem.
Peace, like a frightened dove, has wing'd her flight
To distant hills, beyond these hostile tents;
And thro' 'em we must thither force our way,
If we would call the lovely wanderer back
To her forsaken home—

Eud. False flattering hope!
Vanish'd so soon!—alas, my faithful fears
Return, and tell me we must still be wretched!

Pho. Not so, my fair; if thou but gently smile,
Inspiring valour, and presaging conquest,
These barbarous foes to peace and love shall soon
Be chas'd, like fiends before the morning light,
And all be calm again.

Eud. Is the truce ended?
Must war, alas, renew its bloody rage,
And Phocyas ever be expos'd to danger?

Pho. Think for whose sake danger itself has charms,
Dismiss thy fears; the lucky hour comes on,
Full fraught with joys, when my big soul no more
Shall labour with this secret of my passion,
To hide it from thy jealous father's eyes.
Just now, by signals from the plain, I've learn'd
That the proud foe refuse us terms of honour;
A sally is resolv'd; the citizens
And soldiers, kindled into sudden fury,
Press all in crouds, and beg I'll lead 'em on—
O my Eudocia! if I now succeed—
Did I say if—I must, I will; the cause
Is love, 'tis liberty, it is Eudocia!—

22 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act L

What then shull hinder, since our mutual faith
Is pledg'd, and thou consenting to my bliss,
But I may boldly ask thee of Eumenes,
Nor fear a rival's more prevailing claim ?

Eud. May blessings still attend thy arms !—methinks
I've caught the flame of thy heroic ardor ?
And now I see thee crown'd with palm and olive ;
The soldiers bring thee back with songs of triumph,
And loud applauding shouts ; thy rescu'd country
Resounds thy praise ; our Emperor Heraclius
Decrees thee honours for a city sav'd,
And pillars rise of monumental brass
Inscrib'd——*To PHOCYAS the DELIVERER.*

Pho. The honours and rewards which thou hast nam'd
Are bribes too little for my vast ambition ;
My soul is full of thee !—Thou art my all
Of fame, of triumph, and of future fortune.
'Twas love of thee first sent me forth in arms,
My service is all thine, to thee devoted,
And thou alone canst make e'en conquest pleasing.

Eud. O do not wrong thy merit, nor restrain it
To narrow bounds ; but know, I best am pleas'd
To share thee with thy country. O my Phocyas !
With conscious blushes oft I've heard thy vows,
And strove to hide, yet more reveal'd my heart ;
But 'tis thy virtue justifies my choice,
And what at first was weakness, now is glory.

Pho. Forgive me, thou fair pattern of all goodness !
If in the transport of unbounded passion,
I still am lost to ev'ry thought but thee.
Yet sure to love thee thus is ev'ry virtue ;
Nor need I more perfection.—Hark ! I'm call'd.

[*Trumpet sounds.*

Eud. Then go—and Heav'n with all its angels guard
thee.

Pho. Farewell!—for thee once more I draw the sword.
Now to the field to gain the glorious prize ;
'Tis victory :—the word, Eudocia's eyes ! [*Exeunt.*

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A C T . I I . S C E N E . I .

The Governor's Palace.

EUMENES, HERBIS.

HERBIS.

STILL I must say 'twas wrong, 'twas wrong, Eumenes.]
And mark th' event !

Eum. What cou'd I less ? you saw
'Twas vain t' oppose it, whilst his eager valour,
Impatient of restraint.—

Herb. His eager valour ?
His rashness, his hot youth, his valour's fever !
Must we, whose busines is to keep our walls,
And manage warily our little strength,
Must we at once lavish away our blood,
Because his pulse beats high, and his mad courage
Wants to be breath'd in some new enterprise ?—
You shou'd not have consented.

Eum. You forget,
'Twas not my voice alone ; you saw, the people
(And sure such sudden instincts are from Heav'n !)
Rose all at once to follow him, as if
One soul inspir'd 'em, and that soul were Phocyas.

Herb. I had indeed forgot ; and ask your pardon.
I took you for Eumenes, and I thought
That in Damascus you had chief command.

Eum. What dost thou mean ?

Herb. Nay, who's forgetful now ?
You say, the people—— Yes, that very people,
That coward tribe that press'd you to surrender !
Well may they spurn at lost authority ;
Whom they like better, better they'll obey.

Eum. O I cou'd curse the giddy changeful slaves,
But that the thought of this hour's great event
Possesses all my soul. — If we are beaten ! —

24 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act II.

Herb. The poison works ; 'tis well.—I'll give him more.

[*Afide,*

True, if we're beaten, who shall answer that ?
Shall you, or I ? — Are you the governor ? —
Or say we conquer, whose is then the praise ?

Eum. I know thy friendly fears ; that thou and I
Must stoop beneath a beardless rising hero ;
And in Heraclius' court it shall be said,
Damascus, nay perhaps the empire too,
Ow'd its deliverance to a boy.—Why, be it,
So that he now return with victory ;
'Tis honour greatly won, and let him wear it.
Yet I cou'd wish I needed less his service.
Were Eutyches return'd —

Herb. afide.] That, that's my torture.
I sent my son to th' Emperor's court, in hopes
His merit at this time might raise his fortunes ;
But Phocyas — curse upon his forward virtues ! —
Is reaping all this field of fame alone,
Or leaves him scarce the gleanings of a harvest.

Eum See, Artamon with hasty strides returning ;
He comes alone ! — O friend, thy fears were just.
What are we now, and what is lost Damascus ?

Enter ARTAMON.

Art. Joy to Eumenes !

Eum. Joy ! — is't possible ?
Dost thou bring news of victory ?

Art. The sun
Is set in blood, and from the western skies
Has seen three thousand slaughter'd Arabs fall.

Herb. Is Phocyas safe ?

Art. He is, and crown'd with triumph.

Herb. afide.] My fears indeed were just.

[*Shout.* A Phocyas ! a Phocyas !

Eum. What noise is that ?

Herb. The people worshipping their new divinity.
Shortly they'll build him temples.

Eum. Tell us, soldier,
Since thou hast shar'd the glory of this action,
Tell us how it began.

Art. At first the foe

Seem'd much surpris'd ; but taking soon th' alarm
Gather'd some hasty troops, and march'd to meet us.
The captain of these bands look'd wild and fierce,
His head unarm'd, as if in scorn of danger,
And naked to the waste ; as he drew near,
He rais'd his arm, and shook a pond'rous lance ;
When all at once, as at a signal giv'n,
We heard the *Tecbir*, so these Arabs call
Their shouts of onset, when with loud appeal
They challenge Heav'n, as if demanding conquest.
The battle join'd, and thro' the barbarous host
Fight, Fight, and Paradise was all the cry.
At last our leaders met ; and gallant Phocyas—
But what are words to tell the mighty wonders
We saw him then perform ?—their chief unhors'd,
The Saracens soon broke their ranks and fled ;
And had not a thick evening fog arose
(Which sure the devil rais'd up to save his friends !)
The slaughter had been double.—But, behold !
The hero comes.

Enter PHOCYAS. EUMENES meeting him.

Eum. Joy to brave Phocyas !

Eumenes gives him back the joy he sent.
The welcome news has reach'd this place before thee.
How shall thy country pay the debt she owes thee ?

Pho. By taking this as earnest of a debt
Which I owe her, and fain wou'd better pay.

Herb. In spite of envy I must praise him too. [Aside.
Phocyas, thou hast done bravely, and 'tis fit
Successful virtue take a time to rest.
Fortune is fickle, and may change ; besides,
What shall we gain, if from a mighty ocean
By sluices we draw off some little streams ?
If thousands fall, ten thousands more remain.
Nor ought we hazard worth so great as thine
Against such odds ; suffice what's done already ;
And let us now, in hope of better days,
Keep wary watch, and wait th' expected succours.

26 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. ACT II.

Pho. What!—to be coop'd whole months within our walls?

To rust at home, and sicken with inaction?

The courage of our men will droop and die,
If not kept up by daily exercise.

Again the beaten foe may force our gates;
And Victory, if slighted thus, take wing,

And fly where she may find a better welcome.

Art. aside.] It must be so—he hates him, on my soul,

This Herbis is a foul old envious knave.

Methinks Eumenes too might better thank him.

Eum. to Herb. aside.] Urge him no more;—

I'll think of thy late warning,

And thou shalt see I'll yet be governor.

[*A letter brought in.*

Pho. looking on it.] 'Tis to Eumenes.

Eum. Ha! from Eutyches.

Reads.] 'The Emperor, awaken'd with the danger

That threatens his dominions, and the loss

At Aiznadin, has drain'd his garrisons

To raise a second army. In few hours

We shall begin our march. Sergius brings this,

And will inform you further.'

Herb. aside.] Heav'n, I thank thee!

'Tis e'en beyond my hopes.

Eum. But where is Sergius?

Mess. The letter, fasten'd to an arrow's head,
Was shot into the town.

Eum. I fear he's taken.—

O Phocyas, Herbis, Artamon! my friends!

You are all sharers in this news; the storm

Is blowing o'er, that hung like night upon us,

And threaten'd deadly ruin.—Haste, proclaim

The welcome tidings loud thro' all the city.

Let sparkling lights be seen from every turret,

To tell our joy, and spread their blaze to Heav'n!

Prepare for feasts; danger shall wait at distance,

And fear be now no more. The jolly soldier

And citizen shall meet o'er their full bowls,

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Act II. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS.

27

Forget their toils, and laugh their cares away,
And mirth and triumphs close this happy day.

[*Exeunt* Herb. and Art.]

Pho. And may succeeding days prove yet more happy !
Well dost thou bid the voice of triumph found
Thro' all our streets ; our city calls thee father ;
And say, Eumenes, dost thou not perceive
A father's transport rise within thy breast,
Whilst in this act thou art the hand of Heav'n,
To deal forth blessings, and distribute joy ?

Eum. The blessings Heav'n bestows are freely sent,
And shou'd be freely shar'd.

Pho. True ; — generous minds
Redoubled feel the pleasures they impart.
For me, if I've deserv'd by arms or counsels,
By hazards gladly sought, and greatly prosper'd,
Whate'er I've added to the public stock,
With joy I see it in Eumenes' hands,
And wish but to receive my share from thee :

Eum. I cannot, if I wou'd, with-hold thy share.
What thou hast done is thine ; the fame thy own ;
And virtuous actions will reward themselves.

Pho. Fame !—What is that, if courted for herself ?
Less than a vision : a mere sound, an echo,
That calls with mimic voice thro' woods and labyrinths :
Her cheated lovers ; lost and heard by fits,
But never fix'd ; a seeming nymph, yet nothing.
Virtue, indeed, is a substantial good,
A real beauty ; yet with weary steps
Thro' rugged ways, by long laborious service,
When we have trac'd, and woo'd, and won the dame,
May we not then expect the dower she brings ?

Eum. Well — ask that dower : say, can Damascus
pay it ?

Her riches shall be tax'd, name but the sum,
Her merchants with some costly gems shall grace thee,
Nor can Heraclius fail to grant thee honours,
Proportion'd to thy birth, and thy desert.

Pho. And can Eumenes think I would be brib'd
By trash, by fordid gold, to venal virtue ?

28 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act II.

What ! serve my country for the same mean hire
That can corrupt each villain to betray her ?
Why is she sav'd from these Arabian spoilers,
If to be stripp'd by her own sons ?—Forgive me,
If the thought glows upon my cheeks ; I know
'Twas mention'd, but to prove how much I scorn it.
As for Heraclius, if he own my conduct,
I shall indulge an honest pride in honours
Which I have strove to merit. Yes, Eumenes,
I have ambition——yet the vast reward
That swells my hopes, and equals all my wishes,
Is in thy gift alone——it is Eudocia.

Eum. Eudocia ! Phocyas, I am yet thy friend,
And therefore will not hold thee long in doubt.
Thou must not think of her.—

Pho. Not think of her !
Impossible !—She's ever present to me ;
My life, my soul ; she animates my being,
And kindles up my thoughts to worthy actions.
And why, Eumenes, why not think of her ?
Is not my rank—

Eum. Forbear——what need a herald
To tell me who thou art ?—Yet once again—
Since thou wilt force me to a repetition,
I say, thou must not think of her.

Pho. Yet hear me ;
Why wilt thou judge, ere I can plead my cause ?

Eum. Why wilt thou plead in vain ? hast thou not
heard,

My choice has destin'd her to Eutyches ?

Pho. And has she then consented to that choice ?

Eum. Has she consented !—What is her consent ?
Is she not mine ?

Pho. She is ;—and in that title
E'en kings with envy may behold thy wealth,
And think their kingdoms poor !—and yet, Eumenes,
Shall she, by being thine, be barr'd a privilege
Which ev'n the meanest of her sex may claim ?
Thou wilt not force her ?

Act II. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS.

29

Eum. Who has told thee so?

I'd force her to be happy.

Pho. That thou canst not.

What happiness subsists in loss of freedom?

The guest constrain'd but murmurs at the banquet,
Nor thanks his host, but starves amidst abundance.

Eum. 'Tis well, young man—Why then, I'll learn
from thee

To be a very tame obedient father.

Thou hast already taught my child her duty.

I find the source of all her disobedience,

Her hate of me, her scorn of Eutyches;

Ha! is't not so?—come, tell me; I'll forgive thee.

Hast thou not found her a most ready scholar?

I know thou hast—why, what a dull old dotard.

Was I, to think I ever had a daughter!

Pho. I'm sorry that Eumenes thinks—

Eum. No—Sorry!

Sorry for what? then thou dost own thou'st wrong'd me!

That's somewhat yet—Curse on my stupid blindness!

For had I eyes I might have seen it sooner.

Was this the spring of thy romantic bravery,

Thy boastful merit, thy officious service?

Pho. It was—with pride I own it—'twas Eudocia!

I have serv'd thee in serving her, thou know'st it,

And thought I might have found a better treatment.

Why wilt thou force me thus to be a braggard,

And tell thee that which thou should'st tell thyself?

It grates my soul—I am not wont to talk thus.

But I recall my words—I have done nothing,

And wou'd disclaim all merit but my love.

Eum. O no—say on, that thou hast sav'd Damascus,

Is it not so?—Look o'er her battlements,

See, if the flying foe have left their camp!

Why are our gates yet clos'd if thou hast freed us?

'Tis true, thou fought'st a skirmish—what of that?

Had Eutyches been present—

Pho. Eutyches!

Why wilt thou urge my temper with that trifler?

O let him come! that in yon spacious plain

30. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act II.

We may together charge the thickest ranks,
Rush on to battle, wounds, and glorious death,
And prove who 'twas that best deserv'd Eudocia.

Eum. That will be seen e'er long—but since I find
Thou arrogantly would'st usurp dominion,
Believ'st thyself the guardian genius here,
And that our fortunes hang upon thy fword;
Be that first try'd—for know, that from this moment
Thou here hast no command.—Farewell!—So stay,
Or hence and join the foe—thou hast thy choice.

[*Exit Eumenes.*

Pho. Spurn'd and degraded! proud ungrateful man!
Am I a bubble then, blown up by thee,
And toss'd into the air to make thee sport?
Hence to the foe! 'tis well.—Eudocia,
O I will see thee, thou wrong'd excellency!
But how to speak thy wrongs or my disgrace?
Impossible.—O rather let me walk
Like a dumb ghost, and burst my heart in silence. [*Exit.*

S C E N E II.

The Garden.

Enter EUDOCIA.

Eud. Why must we meet by stealth, like guilty lovers!
But 'twill not long be so—What joy 'twill be
To own my hero in his ripen'd honours,
And hear applauding crowds pronounce me bless'd!—
Sure he'll be here—See! the fair rising moon,
Ere day's remaining twilight scarce is spent,
Hangs up her ready lamp, and with mild lustre
Drives back the hovering shades? Come, Phocyas, come;
This gentle season is a friend to love;
And now, methinks I cou'd, with equal passion,
Meet thine, and tell thee all my secret soul.

Enter PHOCYAS.

He hears me—O my Phocyas!—What!—not answer?—
Art thou not he? or art some shadow?—speak.

Pho. I am indeed a shadow—I am nothing.—

II.

Act II. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. 31

Eud. What dost thou mean? — for now I know thee,
Phocyas.

Pho. And never can be thine.

It will have vent—O barbarous curs'd—but hold—
I had forgot—it was Eudocia's father—
O cou'd I too forget how he had us'd me.

Eud. I fear to ask thee—

Pho. Dost thou fear? — Alas!

Then thou wilt pity me.—O generous maid!
Thou hast charmed down the rage that swell'd my heart,
And chok'd my voice—now I can speak to thee.
And yet 'tis worse than death what I have suffer'd;
It is the death of honour!—yet that's little;
'Tis more, Eudocia, 'tis the loss of thee!

Eud. Hast thou not conquer'd? — What are all these
shouts,

This voice of general joy heard far around?
What are these fires that cast their glimmering light
Against the sky? Are not all these thy triumph?

Pho. O name not triumph! talk no more of conquest!
It is indeed a night of general joy,
But not to me; Eudocia, I am come
To take a last farewell of thee for ever.

Eud. A last farewell!

Pho. Yes.—How wilt thou hereafter

Look on a wretch, despis'd, revil'd, cashier'd,
Stripp'd of command, like a base beaten coward?
Thy cruel father—I have told too much;—
I should not but for this have felt the wounds
I got in fight for him—now, now they bleed.
But I have done—and now thou hast my story,
Is there a creature so accurs'd as Phocyas?

Eud. And can it be? — Is this then thy reward?
O Phocyas! never wouldst thou tell me yet
That thou hadst wounds; now I must feel them too.
For is it not for me thou hast borne this?
What else cou'd be thy crime? — wert thou a traitor,
Hadst thou betray'd us, sold us to the foe—

Pho. Wou'd I be yet a traitor, I have leave;
Nay, I am dar'd to it with mocking scorn.
My crime indeed was asking thee; that only

32 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act II.

Has cancell'd all, if I had any merit ;
The city now is safe, my service slighted,
And I discarded like an useless thing,
Nay, bid be gone—and, if I like that better,
Seek out new friends, and join yon barbarous host.

Eud. Hold—let me think a while— [Walks aside.]
—Tho' my heart bleed,
I wou'd not have him see these dropping tears—
And wilt thou go then, Phocyas ?

Pho. To my grave ;
Where can I bury else this foul disgrace ?
Alas ! that question shews how poor I am,
How very much a wretch ; for if I go,
It is from thee, thou only joy of life :
And death will then be welcome.

Eud. Art thou sure
Thou hast been us'd thus ?—Art thou quite undone ?
Pho. Yes, very sure—What dost thou mean ?
Eud. That then, it is a time for me—O Heav'n ! that I
Alone am grateful to this wondrous man !—
To own thee, Phocyas, thus— [Giving her hand.] nay,
glory in thee,
And shew, without a blush, how much I love.
We must not part—

Pho. Then am I rich again ! [Embracing her.]
O no—we will not part ! confirm it, Heav'n !
Now thou shalt see how I will bend my spirit,
With what soft patience I will bear my wrongs,
Till I have weary'd out thy father's scorn.
Yet I have worse to tell thee—Eutyches—

Eud. Why wilt thou name him ?
Pho. Now, e'en now he's coming !
Just hov'ring o'er thee like a bird of prey :
Thy father vows—for I must tell thee all—
'Twas this that wrung my heart, and rack'd my brain,
E'en to distraction !—vows thee to his bed ;
Nay, threaten'd force, if thou refuse obedience.
Eud. Force !—threaten'd force !—my father !—where
is nature ?
Is that too banish'd from his heart ?—O then

I have no father—How have I deserv'd this?—[Weeping.
No home, but am henceforth an outcast orphan ;
For I will wander to earth's utmost bounds,
Ere give my hand to that detested contract.
O save me, Phocyas! thou hast sav'd my father—
Must I yet call him so, this cruel father—
How wilt thou now deliver poor Eudocia ?

Pho. See ! how we're join'd in exile, how our fate
Conspires to warn us both to leave this city !
Thou know'st the Emperor is now at Antioch ;
I have an uncle there, who, when the Persian,
As now the Saracen, had nigh o'er-run
The ravag'd empire, did him signal service,
And nobly was rewarded : there, Eudocia,
Thou might'st be safe, and I may meet with justice.

Eud. There—any where, so we may fly this place.
See, Phocyas, what thy wrongs and mine have wrought
In a weak woman's frame ! for I have courage
To share thy exile now thro' ev'ry danger.
Danger is only here, and dwells with guilt,
With base ingratitude and hard oppression.

Pho. Then let us lose no time, but hence this night.
The gates I can command, and will provide
The means of our escape. Some five hours hence
('Twill then be turn'd of midnight) we may meet
In the piazza of Honoria's convent.

Eud. I know it weil ; the place is most secure,
And near adjoining to this garden-wall,
There thou shalt find me—O protect us Heav'n !

Pho. Fear not ;—thy innocence will be our guard.
I've thought already how to shape our course.
Some pitying angel will attend thy steps,
Guide thee unseen, and charm the sleeping foe,
'Till thou art safe !—O I have suffered nothing ;
Thus gaining thee, and this great generous proof,
How blest I am in my Eudocia's love !
My only joy, farewell !—

Eud. Farewell, my Phocyas !
I've now no friend but thee—yet thee I'll call
Friend, father, lover, guardian !—Thou art all. [Exeunt.

ACT III. SCENE I.

Caled's Tent.

CALED attended. SERGIUS brought in bound with cords.

CALED.

MERCY? What's that?—Look yonder on the field
Of our late fight!—Go, talk of mercy there.
Will the dead hear thy voice?

Serg. O spare me yet!

Cal. Thou wretch! Spare thee! to what? to live in
torture?

Are not thy limbs all bruised, thy bones disjointed,
To force thee to confess? And wouldest thou drag,
Like a crush'd serpent, a vile mangled being?
My eyes abhor a coward—Hence, and die!

Serg. O, I have told thee all!—When first pursu'd,
I fix'd my letters on an arrow's point,
And shot them o'er the walls—

Cal. Hast thou told all?

Well, then thou shalt have mercy to requite thee;
Behold, I'll send thee forward on thy errand.
Strike off his head; then cast it o'er the gates;
There let thy tongue tell o'er its tale again.

Serg. O bloody Saracen!—

[Exit Sergius dragged away by guards.]

Enter ABUDAH.

Cal. Abudah, welcome!

Abu O Caled! what an evening was the last!

Cal. Name it no more; remembrance sickens with it.
And therefore sleep is banish'd from this night;
Nor shall to-morrow's sun open his eye
Upon our shame, ere doubly we've redeem'd it.
Have all the captains notice?

Abu. I have walk'd

The rounds to-night, ere the last hour of prayer,

Act III. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. 35

From tent to tent, and warn'd them to be ready,
What must be done ?

Cal. Thou know'ft th' important news,
Which we have intercepted by this slave,
Of a new army's march. The time now calls,
While these soft Syrians are dissolv'd in riot,
Fool'd with success, and not suspecting danger,
Nugle&tful of their watch, or else fast bound
In chains of sleep, companion of debauches,
To form a new attack ere break of day.
So, like the wounded leopard, shall we rush
From out our covert on these drowsy hunters,
And seize them, unprepar'd to 'scape our vengeance.

Abu. Great captain of the armies of the faithful !
I know thy mighty and unconquer'd spirit.
Yet hear me, Caled ; hear and weigh my doubts.
Our angry Prophet frowns upon our vices,
And visits us in blood. Why else did terrors
Unknown before, seize all our stoutest bands ?
The angel of destruction was abroad ;
The archers of the tribe of Thaol fled,
So long renown'd, or spent their shafts in vain ;
The feather'd flights err'd thro' the boundless air,
Or the death turn'd on him that drew the bow !
What can this bode ?—Let me speak plainer yet ;
Is it to propagate th' unspotted law ?
We fight ? 'tis well ; it is a noble cause !
But much I fear infection is among us ;
A boundless lust of rapine guides our troops.
We learn the Christian vices we chastise,
And, tempted with the pleasures of the soil,
More than with distant hopes of paradise,
I fear, may soon—but, oh ! avert it Heav'n !
Fall e'en a prey to our own spoils and conquests.

Cal. No—thou mistak'ft ; thy pious zeal deceives thee,
Our Prophet only chides our slaggard valour.
Thou saw'ft how in the vale of Honan once
The troops, as now defeated, fled confus'd
E'en to the gates of Mecca's holy city ;
'Till Mahomet himself there stopp'd their entrance,

36 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act III.

A javelin in his hand, and turn'd them back
Upon the foe; they fought again, and conquer'd.
Behold how we may best appease his wrath!
His own example points us out the way.

Abu. Well—be it then resolv'd. Th' indulgent hour
Of better fortune is, I hope, at hand.
And yet, since Phocyas has appear'd its champion,
How has this city rais'd its drooping head!
As if some charm prevail'd where-e'er he fought;
Our strength seems wither'd, and our feeble weapons
Forgot their wonted triumph—were he absent—

Cal. I would have fought him out in the last action
To single fight, and put that charm to proof,
Had not a foul and sudden mist arose
Ere I arriv'd, to have restor'd the combat.
But let it be—'tis past. We yet may meet,
And 'twill be known whose arm is then the stronger.

Enter DARAN.

Dar. Health to the race of Ismael! and days
More prosp'rous than the last!—A Christian captive
Is fall'n within my watch, and waits his doom.

Cal. Bring forth the slave!—O thou keen vulture, Death!
Do we then feed thee only thus by morsels?
Whole armies never can suffice thy hunger.

DARAN goes out, and re-enters with PHOCYAS.

Cal. Whence, and what art thou?—Of Damascus?
—Daran,

Where didst thou find this dumb and sullen thing,
That seems to lour defiance on our anger?

Dar. Marching in circuit, with the horse thou gav'st me,
T' observe the city gates, I saw from far
Two persons issue forth; the one advanc'd,
And, ere he could retreat, my horsemen seiz'd him.
The other was a woman, and had fled,
Upon a signal given at our approach,
And got within the gate. Wou'dst thou know more,
Himself, if he will speak, can best inform thee.

Cal. Have I not seen thy face?

Act III. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. 37

Abu. to Caled.] He hears thee not ;—
His eyes are fix'd on earth ; some deep distress
Is at his heart. This is no common captive.

Cal. A lion in the toils ! We soon shall tame him,
Still art thou dumb !—Nay, 'tis in vain to cast
Thy gloomy looks so oft around this place,
Or frown upon thy bonds—thou canst not 'scape.

Pho. Then be it so—the worst is past already,
And life is now not worth a moment's pause.
Do you not know me yet ?—think of the man
You have most cause to curse, and I am he.

Cal. Ha ! Phocyas ?

Abu. Phocyas ! Mahomet, we thank thee !
Now thou dost smile again.

Dar. aside.] O devil, devil !
And I not know him ?—'twas but yesterday
He kill'd my horse, and drove me from the field.
Now I'm reveng'd ! No ! hold you there, not yet,
Not while he lives.

Cal. aside.] This is indeed a prize !—
Is it because thou knowest what slaughter'd heaps
There yet unbury'd lie without the camp,
Whose ghosts have all this night, passing the Zorat,
Call'd from that bridge of death on thee to follow,
That now thou'rt here to answer to their cry ?
Howe'er it be, thou know'st thy welcome —

Pho. Yes,
Thou proud, blood-thirsty Arab !—Well I know
What to expect from thee ; I know you all.
How should the authors of distress and ruin
Be mov'd to pity ? that's a human passion ;
No—in your hungry eyes, that look revenge,
I read my doom. Where are your racks, your tortures ?
I'm ready,—lead me to them ; I can bear
The worst of ills from you : you're not my friends,
My countrymen—yet were ye men, I could
Unfold a story—but no more—Eumenes,
Thou hast thy wish, and I am now—a worm !

Abu. to Caled aside.] Leader of armies, hear him ; for
my mind

38 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act III.

Prefages good accruing to our cause
By this event.

Cal. I tell thee then, thou wrong'st us,
To think our hearts thus steel'd, or our ears deaf
To all that thou may'st utter. Speak, disclose
The secret woe that throbs within thy breast.
Now by the silent hours of night ! we'll hear thee,
And mute attention shall await thy words.

Pho. This is not then the palace of Damascus !
If ye will hear, then I indeed have wrong'd you.
How can this be ?—When he for whom I've fought,
Fought against you, has yet refus'd to hear me !
You seem surpris'd.—It was ingratitude
That drove me out an exile from those walls,
Which I so late defended.

Abu. Can it be ?

Are these thy Christian friends ?

Cal. 'Tis well—we thank 'em.

They help us to subdue themselves.—But who
Was that companion of thy flight ?—A woman !
So Daran said —

Pho. 'Tis there I am most wretched —
O I am torn from all my soul held dear,
And my life's blood flows out upon the wound !
That woman—'twas for her—how shall I speak it ?—
Eudocia, O farewell — I'll tell you then,
As fast as these heart-rending sighs will let me :
I lov'd the daughter of the proud Eumenes,
And long in secret woo'd her ; not unwelcome
To her my visits ; but I fear'd her father,
Who oft had press'd her to detested nuptials,
And therefore durst not, till this night of joy,
Avow to him my courtship. Now I thought her
Mine by a double claim, of mutual vows,
And service yielded at his greatest need.
When as I mov'd my suit, with sour disdain
He mock'd my service, and forbad my love ;
Degraded me from the command I bore,
And, with defiance, bade me seek the foe.
How has his curse prevail'd !—The generous maid

Act III. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. 39

Was won by my distress to leave the city;
And cruel fortune made me thus your prey.

Abu. aside.] My soul is mov'd.—Thou wert a man, O Prophet!

Forgive, if 'tis a crime, a human sorrow
For injur'd worth, tho' in an enemy!

Pho. Now—since you've heard my story, set me free,
That I may save her yet, dearer than life,
From a tyrannic father's threaten'd force;
Gold, gems and purple vests, shall pay my ransom;
Nor shall my peaceful sword henceforth be drawn
In fight, nor break its truce with you for ever.

Cal. No;—there's one way, a better, and but one,
To save thyself, and make some reparation
For all the numbers thy bold hand has slain.

Pho. O name it quickly, and my soul will bless thee!

Cal. Embrace our faith, and share with us our fortunes.

Pho. Then I am lost again!

Cal. What! when we offer
Not freedom only, but to raise thee high
To greatness, conquest, glory, heav'nly bliss!

Pho. To sink me down to infamy, perdition,
Here and hereafter! make my name a curse
To present times, to ev'ry future age
A proverb and a scorn! —take back thy mercy,
And know I now disdain it.

Cal. As thou wilt.

The time's too precious to be wasted longer
In words with thee. Thou know'st thy doom—Farewell.

Abu. to Caled, aside.] Hear me yet, Caled! grant
him some short space;

Perhaps at length he will accept thy bounty.

Try him at least—

Cal. Well—be it so then. Daran,
Guard well thy charge.—Thou hast an hour to live;
If thou art wise, thou may'st prolong that term;
If not—why—fare thee well, and think of death.

[*Exeunt Caled and Abudah.*

Phocyas. [Daran waiting at a distance.
Farewell, and think of death! was it not so?

40 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act III,

Do murderers then preach morality?—
But how to think of what the living know not,
And the dead cannot, or else may not tell?—
What art thou, O thou great mysterious terror!
The way to thee we know; diseases, famine,
Sword, fire, and all thy ever-open gates
That day and night stand ready to receive us.
But what's beyond them?—Who will draw that veil?
Yet death's not there—No; 'tis a point of time,
The verge 'twixt mortal and immortal being.
It mocks our thought! on this side all is life;
And when we've reach'd it, in that very instant
'Tis past the thinking of!—O if it be
The pangs, the throes, the agonizing struggles.
When soul and body part, sure I have felt it,
And there's no more to fear.

Dar. aside.] Suppose I now
Dispatch him?—Right—What need to stay for orders?
I wish I durst.—Yet what I dare I'll do.
Your jewels, Christian—You'll not need these trifles.

[Searching him.]
Pho. I pray thee, slave, stand off—My soul's too busy
To lose a thought on thee.

Enter ABUDAH.

Abu. What's this!—Forbear;
Who gave thee leave to use this insolence?

[Takes the jewels from him, and lays 'em on a table.]

Dar. aside.] Deny'd my booty!—Curses on his head:
Was not the founder of our law a robber?
Why, 'twas for that I left my country's gods,
Menaph and Uzza. Better still be Pagan,
Than starve with a new faith.

Abu. What!—Dost thou mutter?
Daran, withdraw; and better learn thy duty.

[Exit Daran.]

Phocyas, perhaps thou know'st me not.—

Pho. I know
Thy name, Abudah, and thy office here
The second in command. What more thou art
Indeed I cannot tell.

Act III. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS.

41

Abu. True ; for thou yet
Know'st not I am thy friend.

Pho. Is't possible ! —
Thou speak'st me fair.

Abu. What dost thou think of life ?

Pho. I think not of it ; death was in my thoughts.
On hard conditions life were but a load,
And I would lay it down.

Abu. Art thou resolv'd ?

Pho. I am, unless thou bring'st me better terms
Than those I have rejected.

Abu. Think again.
Caled, by me, once more renews that offer.

Pho. Thou say'st thou art my friend ; why dost thou try
To shake the settled temper of my breast ?
My soul hath just discharg'd her cumbrous train
Of hopes and fears, prepar'd to take her voyage
To other seats where she may rest in peace ;
And now thou call'st me back, to beat again
The painful roads of life.—Tempt me no more
To be a wretch, for I despise the offer.

Abu. The General knows thee brave, and 'tis for that
He seeks alliance with thy noble virtues.

Pho. He knows me brave !—why does he then thus
treat me ?

No ; he believes I am so poor of soul,
That barely for the privilege to live,
I would be bought his slave. But go and tell him,
The little space of life his scorn bequeath'd me
Was lent in vain, and he may take the forfeit.

Abu. Why wilt thou wed thyself to misery,
When our faith courts thee to eternal blessings ?
When truth itself is, like a seraph, come
To loose thy bonds ?—The light divine, whose beams
Pierc'd thro' the gloom of Hera's sacred cave,
And there illumin'd the great Mahomet,
Arabia's morning star, now shines on thee.
Arise, salute with joy the guest from heav'n,
Follow her steps, and be no more a captive.

Pho. But whither must I follow ?—answer that.

42 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act III.

Is she a guest from Heav'n? What marks divine,
What signs, what wonders vouch her boasted mission?

Abu. What wonders!—Turn thy eyes to Mecca!
mark,

How from Caaba first, that hallow'd temple,
Her glory dawn'd?—then look how swift its course,
As when the sun-beams, shooting thro' a cloud,
Drive o'er the meadow's face the flying shades!
Have not the nations bent before our swords,
Like ripen'd corn before the reaper's steel?
Why is all this? why does success still wait
Upon our law, if not to shew that Heav'n
First sent it forth, and owns it still by conquest?

Pho. Dost thou ask why is this?—O why indeed?
Where is the man can read Heav'n's secret counsels?—
Why did I conquer in another cause,
Yet now am here?—

Abu. I'll tell thee—thy good angel
Has seiz'd thy hand unseen, and snatch'd thee out
From swift destruction: know, ere day shall dawn,
Damascus will in blood lament its fall;
We've heard what army is design'd to march
Too late to save her. Now, e'en now, our force
Is just preparing for a fresh assault.
Now too thou might'st revenge thy wrongs—so Caled
Charg'd me to say; and more, that he invites thee,
Thou know'st the terms—to share with him the conquest.

Pho. Conquest! revenge!—Hold, let me think—
O horror!

Revenge!—O what revenge? bleed on, my wounds;
For thus to be reveng'd, were it not worse
Than all that I can suffer?—But Eudocia—
Where will she then—Shield her, ye pitying Powers,
And let me die in peace!

Abu. Hear me once more,
'Tis all I have to offer; mark me now!
Caled has sworn Eudocia shall be safe.
Pho. Ha! safe!—but how? a wretched captive too!
Abu. He swears she shall be free, she shall be thine.
Pho. Then I am lost indeed—O cruel bounty!
How can I be at once both curs'd and happy?

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Act III. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. 43

Abu. The time draws near, and I must quickly leave thee;

But first reflect, that in this fatal night
Slaughter and rapine may be loos'd abroad,
And while they roam with undistinguish'd rage,
Should she thou lov'st—well may'st thou start—be made
Perhaps unknown, some barbarous soldier's prey,
Should she then fall a sacrifice to lust,
Or brutal fury—

Pho. O—this pulls my heart-strings! [Falls.
Earth open—save me, save me from that thought,
There's ruin in it, 'twill, it will undo me.

Abu. Nay, do not plunge thyself in black despair;
Look up, poor wretch, thou art not shipwreck'd yet,
Behold an anchor; am not I thy friend?
Yet hear me, and be blest'd—

Pho. rising.] Hah! who, what art thou? [Raving.
My friend? that's well; but hold—are all friends
honest?

What's to be done?—hush, hark! what voice is that?

Abu. There is no voice; 'tis yet the dead of night;
The guards, without, keep silent-watch around us.

Pho. Again—it calls—'tis she—O lead me to her—

Abu. Thy passion mocks thee with imagin'd sounds.

Pho. Sure 'twas Eudocia's voice cry'd out—Forbear.
What shall I do?—O Heav'n!

Abu. Heav'n shews thee what.

Nay, now it is too late; see Caled comes
With anger on his brow; quickly withdraw
To the next tent, and there—

Pho. raving.] What do I see?
Damascus! conquest! ruin! rapes and murder!
Villains!—Is there no way—O save her, save her!
[Exit with Abudah.

Enter CALED and DARAN.

Dar. Behold, on thy approach, they shift their ground.

Cal. 'Tis as thou say'st, he trifles with my mercy.

Dar. Speak, shall I fetch his head?

Cal. No, stay thou here,

44 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act III.

I cannot spare thee yet. Raphan, go thou. [To an officer.
But hold—I've thought again—he shall not die.
Go, tell him he shall live till he has seen
Damascus sink in flames, till he behold
That slave, the woman-idol he adores,
Or given a prize to some brave Mussulman,
Or slain before his face; then if he sue
For death as for a boon—perhaps we'll grant it.

[Exit Raphan.]

Dar. The captains wait thy orders.

Cal. Are the troops
Ready to march?

Dar. They are.

[The Captains pass by as they are named.
Cal. Where's Abu-Taleb?

Alcorash?—O, your valiant tribes, I thank 'em,
Fled from their standard! Will they now redeem it?
Omar and Serjabil?—'tis well, I see 'em.
You know your duty. You, Abdorraman,
Must charge with Raphan. Mourn, thou haughty city!
The bow is bent, nor canst thou 'scape thy doom.
Who turns his back henceforth, our Prophet curse him!

Dar. But who commands the trusty bands of Mecca?
Thou know'st their leader fell in the last fight.

Cal. 'Tis true; thou, Daran, well deserv'st that charge;
I've mark'd what a keen hatred, like my own,
Dwells in thy breast against these Christian dogs.

Dar. Thou dost me right.

Cal. And therefore I'll reward it.

Be that command now thine. And here—this sabre,
Bless'd in the field by Mahomet himself.

At Chaibar's prosp'rous fight, shall aid thy arm.

Dar. Thanks, my good chief; with this I'll better
thank thee. [Taking the scimitar.

Cal. Myself will lead the troops of the black standard,
And at the eastern gate begin the storm.

Dar. But why do we not move? 'twill soon be day:
Methinks I'm cold, and wou'd grow warm with action.

Cal. Then haste and tell Abudah—O thou'r't welcome.

Act III. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS.

45

Enter ABUDAH.

Thy charge awaits thee. Where's the stubborn captive?

Abu. Indeed he's brave. I left him for a moment
In the next tent. He's scarcely yet himself.

Cal. But is he ours?

Abu. The threats of death are nothing.

Tho' thy last message shook his soul, as winds
On the bleak hills bend down some lofty pine ;
Yet still he held his root, till I found means,
Abating somewhat of thy first demand,
If not to make him wholly ours, at least
To gain sufficient to our end.

Cal. Say how?

Abu. Oft he inclin'd, oft started back ; at last,
When just consenting, for a while he paus'd,
Stood fix'd in thought, and lift his eyes to Heav'n ;
Then, as with fresh recover'd force, cry'd out,
Renounce my faith ! Never—I answer'd, No,
That now he should not do it.

Cal. How!

Abu. Yet hear.

For since I saw him now so lost in passion,
That must be left to his more temperate thoughts.
Mean time I urg'd, conjur'd, at last constrain'd him,
By all he held most dear, nay, by the voice
Of Providence, that call'd him now to save,
With her he lov'd, perhaps the lives of thousands,
No longer to resist his better fate,
But join his arms in present action with us,
And swear he would be faithful.

Cal. What ! no more ?

Then he's a Christian still.

Abu. Have patience yet :

For if by him we can surprise the city—

Cal. Say'st thou !

Abu. Hear what's agreed ; but on the terms,
That ev'ry unresisting life be spar'd.
I shall command some chosen faithful bands,
Phocyas will guide us to the gate, from whence

46 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. ACT

He late escap'd, nor do we doubt but there
With ease to gain admittance.

Cal. This is something.
And yet I do not like this half-ally—
Is he not still a Christian? — but no matter—
Mean time I will attack the eastern gate;
Who first succeeds gives entrance to the rest.
Hear, all! — Prepare ye now for boldest deeds,
And know, the Prophet will reward your valour.
Think that ye all to certain triumph move;
Who falls in fight yet meets the prize above.
There, in the gardens of eternal spring,
While birds of paradise around you sing,
Each, with his blooming beauty by his side,
Shall drink rich wines that in full rivers glide,
Breathe fragrant gales o'er fields of spice that blow,
And gather fruits immortal as they grow:
Ecstatic bliss shall your whole pow'rs employ,
And ev'ry sense be lost in ev'ry joy.

[*Exeunt.*

A C T IV. S C E N E I.

A great Square in the city, before the Governor's palace.

Enter ABUDAH, Saracen Captains and Soldiers; with EUMENES, HERBIS, and others of the Christians unarmed.

EUMENES.

I T must be so—farewell, devoted walls! —
To be surpris'd thus! — Hell and all ye fiends,
How did ye watch this minute for destruction!

Herb. We've been betray'd by riot and debauch;
Curse on the traitor guard!

Eum. The guard above,
Did that sleep too?

Abu. Christians, complain no more.
What you have ask'd is granted. Are ye men,

IV. ACT IV. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS.

47

And dare you question thus, with bold impatience,
Eternal Justice!—Know, the doom from Heav'n
Falls on your towers, resistless as the bolt
That fires the cedars on your mountain tops.
Be meek, and learn with humble awe to bear
The mitigated ruin. Worse had follow'd,
Had ye oppos'd our numbers. Now you're safe,
Quarter and liberty are giv'n to all;
And little do ye think how much ye owe
To one brave enemy, whom yet ye know not.

Enter ARTAMON hastily.

Art. All's lost!—Ha!—who are these?

Eum. All's lost indeed.

Yield up thy sword, if thou wou'dst share our safety.
Thou com'st too late to bring us news.

Art. O—no.

The news I bring is from the eastern guard,
Caled has forc'd the gate, and—but he's here.

[*A cry without.*] Fly, fly; they follow—quarter, mercy,
quarter!

[*Several persons as pursu'd run over the stage.*

Caled without.] No quarter! kill, I say; are they
not Christians?

More blood! our Prophet asks it.—

He enters with DARAN, &c.

What, Abudah?

Well met!—but wherefore are these looks of peace?

Why sleeps thy sword?

Abu. Caled, our task is over.

Behold the chiefs; they have resign'd the palace.

Cal. And sworn t' obey our law?

Abu. No.

Cal. Then fall on.

Abu. Hold yet, and hear me—Heav'n by me has spar'd
The sword its cruel task. On easy terms
We've gain'd a bloodless conquest.

Cal. I renounce it.

Burse on those terms; the city's mine by storm.

Fall on, I say—

48 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act IV.

Abu. Nay then, I swear you shall not.

Cal. Ha! — Who am I?

Abu. The general, and I know
What reverence is your due.

[Caled signs to his men to fall on,

— Nay, he who stirs,
First makes his way thro' me. My honour's pledg'd;
Rob me of that who dares. [They stop.] I know thee,

Caled,

Chief in command; bold, valiant, wise and faithful.
But yet remember I'm a Mussulman,
Nay more, thou know'st, companion of the Prophet,
And what we vow is sacred.

Cal. Thou'rt a Christian,
I swear thou art, and hast betray'd the faith.
Curse on thy new allies!

Abu. No more—this strife
But ill beseems the servants of the Caliph,
And casts reproach—Christians, withdraw a while;
I pledge my life to answer the conditions—

[Exeunt Eumenes, Herbis, &c.

Why, Caled, do we thus expose ourselves
A scorn to nations that despise our law?
Thou call'st me Christian—What? is it because
I prize my plighted faith, that I'm a Christian?
Come, 'tis not well, and if—

Cal. What terms are yielded?

Abu. Leave to depart, to all that will; an oath
First giv'n no more to aid the war against us;
An unmolested march. Each citizen
To take his goods, not more than a mule's burden;
The chiefs six mules, and ten the governor:
Besides some few slight arms for their defence
Against the mountain robbers.

Cal. Now, by Mahomet,
Thou hast equipp'd an army.

Abu. Canst thou doubt

The greater part by far will chuse to stay,
Receive our law, or pay th' accustom'd tribute!
What fear we then from a few wretched bands

Act IV. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS.

Of scatter'd fugitives?—besides, thou know'st
What towns of strength remain yet unsubdu'd.
Let us appear this once like generous victors,
So future conquests shall repay this bounty,
And willing provinces e'en court subjection.

Cal. Well—be it on thy head, if worse befall!
This once I yield—but see it then proclaim'd
Thro' all Damascus, that who will depart
Must leave the place this instant—pass, move on. [*Exeunt.*]

S C E N E II.

The outside of a Nunnery.

Eud. Darkness is fled; and yet the morning light
Gives me more fears than did night's deadly gloom.
Within, without, all, all are foes—O Phocyas,
Thou art perhaps at rest; wou'd I were too!

[*After a pause.*]

This place has holy charms; rapine and murder
Dare not approach it, but are aw'd to distance.
I've heard that e'en these infidels have spar'd
Walls sacred to devotion—World, farewell!
Here will I hide me, 'till the friendly grave
Open its arms and shelter me for ever.

[*Exit.*]

Enter PHOCYAS.

Pho. Did I not hear the murmurs of a voice,
This way? a woman's too? and seem'd complaining?
Hark!—No—O torture! whither shall I turn me?
I've search'd the palace rooms in vain; and now,
I know not why, some instinct brought me hither.—
'Twas here last night we met. Dear, dear Eudocia!
Might I once more—[*Going out he meets her entering.*]

Eud. Who calls the lost Eudocia?
Sure 'tis a friendly voice!]

Pho. 'Tis she—O rapture!

Eud. Is't possible—my Phocyas?

Pho. My Eudocia!

Do I yet call thee mine?

Eud. Do I yet see thee?

VOL. IV.

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50. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. ACT IV.

Yet hear thee speak?—O how hast thou escap'd
From barbarous swords and men that know not mercy?

Pho. I've born a thousand deaths since our last parting,
But wherefore do I talk of death?—for now,
Methinks, I'm rais'd almost to life immortal,
And feel I'm blest beyond the pow'r of change.

Eud. O yet beware—lest some event unknown
Again shou'd part us.

Pho. [Aside.] Heav'n avert the omen!
None can, my fair, none shall.

Eud. Alas, thy transport
Makes thee forget; is not the city taken?

Pho. It is.

Eud. And are we not beset with foes?

Pho. There are no foes—or none to thee—no danger,

Eud. No foes?

Pho. I know not how to tell thee yet—
But think, Eudocia, that my matchless love,
And wondrous causes preordain'd, conspiring,
For thee have triumph'd o'er the fiercest foes,
And turn'd 'em into friends.

Eud. Amazement! friends!—
O all ye guardian powers!—Say on—O lead me,
Lead me through this dark maze of providence
Which thou hast trod, that I may trace thy steps
With silent awe, and worship as I pass.

Pho. Enquire no more—thou shalt know all hereafter—
Let me conduct thee thence—

Eud. O whither next?
To what far distant home?—But 'tis enough,
That favour'd thus of Heav'n thou art my guide.
And as we journey on the painful way,
Say, wilt thou then beguile the passing hours,
And open all the wonders of thy story?

Pho. Indulge no more thy melancholy thoughts,
Damascus is thy home.

Eud. And yet thou say'st

It is no longer ours!—Where is my father?

Pho. To shew thee too how fate seems every way
To guard thy safety, e'en thy father now,

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Act IV. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. 51

Wert thou within his power, wou'd stand defeated
Of his tyrannic vow. Thou knew'st last night
What hope of aids flatter'd this foolish city ;
At break of day th' Arabian scouts had seiz'd.
A second courier, and from him 'tis learn'd,
That on their march the army mutiny'd,
And Eutyches was slain.

Eud. And yet, that now
Is of the least importance to my peace.
But answer me ; say, where is now my father ?

Pho. Or gone, or just preparing to depart.

Eud. What ! is our doom revers'd ? and is he then
The wretched fugitive ? —

Pho. Thou heav'nly maid !
To free thee then from ev'ry anxious thought,
Know, I've once more, wrong'd as I am, e'en sav'd
Thy father's threaten'd life, nay sav'd Damascus
From blood and slaughter, and from total ruin.
Terms are obtain'd, and general freedom granted
To all that will, to leave in peace the city.

Eud. Is't possible !—now trust me I cou'd chide thee ;
'Tis much unkind to hold me thus in doubt ;
I pr'ythee clear these wonders.

Pho. 'Twill surprise thee,
When thou shalt know —

Eud. What ?

Pho. To what deadly gulps
Of horror and despair, what cruel straits
Of agonizing thought I have been driv'n
This night, ere my perplex'd bewilder'd soul
Cou'd find its way—thou saidst that thou wou'dst chide ;
I fear thou wilt ; indeed I have done that
I cou'd have wish'd t' avoid—but for a cause
So lovely, so belov'd —

Eud. What dost thou mean !
I'll not indulge a thought that thou cou'dst do
One act unworthy of thyself, thy honour,
And that firm zeal against these foes of Heav'n,
Which won my heart at first to share in all
Thy dangers and thy fame, and wish thee mine,

52 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act IV.

Thou cou'dst not save thy life by means inglorious.

Pho. Alas ! thou know'st me not—I'm man, frail man,
To error born ; and who that's man is perfect ?
To save my life ? Oh no, well was it risk'd
For thee ! had it been lost, 'twere not too much,
And thou but safe ;—O what wou'dst thou have said,
If I had risk'd my soul to save Eudocia ?

Eud. Ha ! speak—O no, be dumb—it cannot be !
And yet thy looks are chang'd, thy lips grow pale.
Why dost thou shake ?—alas ! I tremble too !
Thou cou'dst not, hast not sworn to Mahomet ?

Pho. No—I shou'd first have dy'd—nay giv'n up thee.

Eud. O Phocyas ! was it well to try me thus ?—

And yet another deadly fear succeeds.

How came these wretches hither ? who reviv'd
Their fainting arms to unexpected triumph ?
For while thou fough'tst, and fought'st the Christian cause,
These batter'd walls were rocks impregnable,
Their tow'rs of adamant. But O I fear
Some act of thine——

Pho. No more——I'll tell thee all ;
But pr'ythee do not frown on me, Eudocia !—
I found the wakeful foe in midnight council
Resolv'd ere day to make a fresh attack,
Keen for revenge, and hungry after slaughter.
Cou'd my rack'd soul bear that, and think of thee ?
Nay, think of thee expos'd a helpless prey
To some fierce ruffian's violating arms ?
O had the world been mine in that extreme
I should have giv'n whole provinces away,
Nay all—and thought it little for thy ransom !

Eud. For this then,—oh—thou hast betray'd the city ?
Distrustful in the righteous pow'rs above,
That still protect the chaste and innocent.
And, to avert a feign'd uncertain danger,
Thou hast brought certain ruin on thy country !

Pho. No, thou forget'st the friendly terms—the sword,
Which threaten'd to have fill'd these streets with blood,
Is sheath'd in peace ; thy father, thou, and all
The citizens are safe, uncaptiv'd, free.

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Act IV. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. 53.

Eud. Safe? free? O no—life, freedom, ev'ry good,
Turns to a curse, if sought by wicked means.
Yet sure it cannot be! are these the terms
On which we meet?—No—we can never meet
On terms like these; the hand of death itself
Could not have torn us from each others arms
Like this dire act, this more than fatal blow!
In death, the soul and body only part
To meet again, and be divorc'd no more;
But now——

Pho. Ha! light'ning blast me! strike me,
Ye vengeful bolts! if this is my reward!
Are these my hop'd-for joys? Is this the welcome
The wretched Phocyas meets, from her he lov'd
More than life, fame—e'en to his soul's distraction?

Eud. Hadst thou not help'd the slaves of Mahomet
To spread their impious conquests o'er thy country,
What welcome was there in Eudocia's power
She had with-held from Phocyas? but alas!
'Tis thou hast blasted all our joys for ever,
And cut down hope like a poor short-liv'd flower,
Never to grow again!

Pho. Cruel Eudocia!
If in my heart's deep anguish I've been forc'd
A while from what I was—dost thou reject me?
Think of the cause——

Eud. The cause! there is no cause!
Not universal nature could afford
A cause for this; what were dominion, pomp,
The wealth of nations, nay, of all the world,
The world itself, or what a thousand worlds,
If weigh'd with faith unspotted, heav'nly truth,
Thoughts free from guilt, the empire of the mind,
And all the triumphs of a godlike breast
Firm and unmov'd in the great cause of virtue?

Pho. How shall I answer thee?—my soul is aw'd,
And trembling owns th' eternal force of reason!
But, oh! can nothing then atone, or plead
For pity from thee?

Eud. Canst thou yet undo

The deed that's done, recal the time that's past?
 O call back yesterday, call back last night,
 Tho' with its fears, its dangers, its distress;
 Bid the fair hours of innocence return,
 When, in the lowest ebb of changeful fortune,
 Thou wert more glorious in Eudocia's eyes
 Than all the pride of monarchs!—but that deed—

Pho. No more—thou waken'st in my tortur'd heart
 The cruel, conscious worm that stings to madnes.
 O I'm undone!—I know it, and can bear
 To be undone for thee, but not to lose thee.

Eud. Poor wretch! I pity thee!—but art thou Phocyas!
 The man I lov'd?—I cou'd have dy'd with thee
 Ere thou didst this; then we had gone together,
 A glorious pair, and soar'd above the stars,
 Bright as the stars themselves; and as we pass'd
 The heav'nly roads and milky ways of light,
 Had heard the bless'd inhabitants with wonder
 Applaud our spotless love. But never, never
 Will I be made the curs'd reward of treason,
 To seal thy doom, to bind a hellish league,
 And to insure thy everlasting woe.

Pho. What league?—'tis ended—I renounce it—
 thus [Knell.]

I bend to Heav'n and thee.—O thou divine,
 Thou matchless image of all-perfect Goodnes!
 Do thou but pity yet the wretched Phocyas,
 Heav'n will relent, and all may yet be well.

Eud. No—We must part. 'Twill ask whole years of
 sorrow

To purge away this guilt. Then do not think
 Thy loss in me is worth one dropping tear;
 But, if thou wou'dst be reconcil'd to Heav'n,
 First sacrifice to Heav'n that fatal passion
 Which caus'd thy fall—farewell; forget the los—
 But how shall I ask that?—I wou'd have said,
 For thy soul's peace, forget the lost Eudocia:
 Canst thou forget her?—O the killing torture
 To think 'twas love, excess of love, divorc'd us!
 Farewell for—still I cannot speak that word.
 These tears speak for me—O farewell—

[Exit]

Pho. raving.] For ever!
 Return, return and speak it, say for ever!
 She's gone—and now she joins the fugitives.
 And yet she did not quite pronounce my doom—
 O hear, all-gracious Heav'n! wilt thou at once
 Forgive, and O inspire me to some act
 This day, that may in part redeem what's past!
 Prosper this day, or let it be my last. [Exit.]

A C T V. S C E N E I.

*An open Place in the city.**Enter CALED and DARAN meeting.***CALED.**

SOULIER, what news? thou look'st as thou wert angry.
Dar. And durst I say it, so, my chief, I am.
 I've spoke—if it offends, my head is thine,
 Take it, and I am silent.

Cal. No: say on.
 I know thee honest, and perhaps I guess
 What knits thy brow in frowns—

Dar. Is this, my leader,
 A conquer'd city!—view yon vale of palms:
 Behold the vanquish'd Christian triumphs still,
 Rich in his flight, and mocks thy barren war.

Cal. The vale of palms!
Dar. Beyond those hills, the place
 Where they agreed this day to meet and halt,
 To gather all their forces; there disguis'd,
 Just now I've view'd their camp—O I cou'd curse
 My eyes for what they've seen!

Cal. What hast thou seen?
Dar. Why, all Damascus;—all its soul, its life,
 Its heart's blood, all its treasure, piles of plate,
 Grosses enrich'd with gems, arras and silks,
 And vests of gold, unfolded to the sun,
 That rival all his lustre,

Cal. How!

[Exit.]

Dar. 'Tis true,
The bees are wisely bearing off their honey,
And soon the empty hive will be our own.
Cal. So forward too? curse on this foolish treaty.
Dar. Forward!—it looks as they had been forewarn'd,
By Mahomet, the land wears not the face
Of war, but trade; and thou would'st swear its merchants
Were sending forth their loaded caravans
To all the neighbouring countries.

Cal. aside.] Ha! this starts
A lucky thought of Mahomet's first exploit,
When he pursu'd the caravan of Corash,
And from a thousand misbelieving slaves
Wrested their ill-heap'd goods, transferr'd to thrive
In holier hands, and propagate the faith.—
[To Daran.] 'Tis said, the Emperor had a wardrobe here
Of costly silks.

Dar. That too they have remov'd.
Cal. Dogs! infidels! 'tis more than was allow'd.
Dar. And shall we not pursue 'em—robbers! thieves!
That steal away themselves, and all they're worth,
And wrong the valiant soldier of his due.

Cal. aside.] The Caliph shall know this—he shall,
Abudah,
This is thy coward bargain—I renounce it.

Daran, we'll stop their march, and make a search.

Dar. And strip?

Cal. And kill.

Dar. That's well. And yet I fear
Abudah's Christian friend—

Cal. If possible,
He should not know of this; no, nor Abudah.
By the seven Heav'n's! his soul's a Christian too,
And 'tis by kindred instinct he thus saves
Their cursed lives, and taints our cause with mercy.

Dar. I knew my general would not suffer this,
Therefore I've troops prepar'd without the gate,
Just mounted for pursuit. Our Arab horse
Will in few minutes reach the place; yet still
I must repeat my doubts—that devil, Phocyas,

Will know it soon—I met him near the gate ;
My nature sickens at him, and forebodes
I know not what of ill.

Cal. No more ; away
With thy cold fears—we'll march this very instant,
And quickly make this thriftless conquest good :
The sword too has been wrong'd, and thirsts for blood.

S C E N E II.

A Valley full of tents ; baggage and harness lying up and down amongst them. The prospect terminated with palm-trees and hills at a distance.

EUMENES, with OFFICERS, attendants, and crouds of the people of Damascus.

Eum. entering.] Sleep on—and angels be thy guard
—soft slumber

Has gently stole her from her griefs a while.

Let none approach the tent.—Are out-guards plac'd
On yonder hills? [To an Officer.

Offi. They are.

Eum. striking his breast.] Damascus ! O——
Still art thou here ?—Let me entreat you, friends,
To keep strict order ; I have no command,
And can but now advise you.

1 Cit. You are still
Our head and leader.

2 Cit. We resolve t' obey you.

3 Cit. We're all prepar'd to follow you.

Eum. I thank you.

The fun will soon go down upon our sorrows,
and, till to-morrow's dawn, this is our home :
Mean while, each, as he can, forget his loss,
and bear the present lot.—

Offi. Sir, I have mark'd
The camp's extent ; 'tis stretch'd quite thro' the valley :
think that more than half the city's here.

Eum. The prospect gives me much relief. I'm pleas'd,
My honest countrymen, t' observe your numbers ;
and yet it fills my eyes with tears—'Tis said

The mighty Persian wept, when he survey'd
 His numerous army, but to think 'em mortal ;
 Yet he then flourish'd in prosperity.
Alas ! what's that ? — Prosperity ! a harlot
 That smiles but to betray ! O shining ruin !
 Thou nurse of passions, and thou bane of virtue !
 O self-destroying monster ! that art blind :
 Yet put't it out Reason's eyes, that still should guide thee,
 Then plungest down some precipice unseen,
 And art no more ! — Hear me, all-gracious Heav'n !
 Let me wear out my small remains of life
 Obscure, content with humble poverty,
 Or in Affliction's hard but wholesome school,
 If it must be — I'll learn to know myself,
 And that's more worth than empire. But, O Heav'n,
 Curse me no more with proud prosperity !
 It has undone me ! — Herbis ; where, my friend,
 Hast thou been this long hour ?

Enter HERBIS.

Herb. On yonder summit,
 To take a farewell prospect of Damascus.
Eum. And is it worth a look ?
Herb. No — I've forgot it.
 All our possessions are a grasp of air ;
 We're cheated whilst we think we hold them fast,
 And when they're gone, we know that they were nothing.
 But I've a deeper wound.
Eum. Poor good old man !
 'Tis true ; — thy son — there thou'rt indeed unhappy,

Enter ARTAMON.

What, Artamon ! — art thou here too ?
Art. Yes, Sir.
 I never boasted much of my religion,
 Yet I've some honour, and a soldier's pride :
 I like not these new lords.
Eum. Thou'rt brave and honest.
 Nay, we'll not yet despair. A time may come
 When from these brute barbarians we may wrest

Once more our pleasant seats.—Alas, how soon
The flatterer, hope, is ready with his song
To charm us to forgetfulness!—No more—
Let that be left to Heav'n.—See, Herbis, see,
Methinks we've here a goodly city yet!
Was it not thus our great forefathers liv'd,
In better times?—in humble fields and tents,
With all their flocks and herds, their moving wealth?
See too! where our own Phaphar winds his stream
Thro' the long vale, as if to follow us,
And kindly offers his cool wholesome draughts
To ease us in our march! Why, this is plenty.

Enter EUDOCIA.

Eum. My daughter!—wherefore hast thou left thy tent?
What breaks so soon thy rest?

Eud. Rest is not there,
Or I have sought in vain, and cannot find it.
Oh no——we're wanderers, it is our doom;
There is no rest for us.

Eum. Thou art not well.

Eud. I would, if possible, avoid myself.
I'm better now near you.

Eum. Near me!——alas!
The tender vine so wreaths its folded arms
Around some falling elm!—it wounds my heart
To think thou follow'st but to share my ruin:
I have lost all but thee.

Eud. O say not so;
You have lost nothing; no—you have preserv'd
Immortal wealth, your faith inviolate
To Heav'n and to your country. Have you not
Refus'd to join with prosp'r'ous wicked men,
And hold from them a false inglorious greatness?
Ruin is yonder, in Damascus, now
The seat abhor'd of cursed infidels.
Infernall error, like a plague, has spread
Contagion thro' its guilty palaces,
And we are fled from death.

Eum. Heroic maid!

The mighty Persian wept, when he survey'd
 His numerous army, but to think 'em mortal;
 Yet he then flourish'd in prosperity.
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 That smiles but to betray! O shining ruin!
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Act V. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS.

53

Once more our pleasant seats.—Alas, how soon
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To charm us to forgetfulness!—No more—
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With all their flocks and herds, their moving wealth?
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And hold from them a false inglorious greatness?
Ruin is yonder, in Damascus, now
The seat abhor'd of cursed infidels.
Infernall error, like a plague, has spread
Contagion thro' its guilty palaces,
And we are fled from death.

Eum. Heroic maid!

The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act v.

Thy words are balsam to my griefs. Eudocia,
I never knew thee till this day; I knew not
How many virtues I had wrong'd in thee.

Eud. If you talk thus you have not yet forgiven me.

Eum. Forgiven thee!—why, for thee it is, thee only,
I think Heav'n yet may look with pity on us;
Yes, we must all forgive each other now.
Poor Herbis too—we both have been to blame.
O Phocyas—but it cannot be recall'd.
Yet were he here, we'd ask him pardon too.
My child!—I meant not to provoke thy tears.

Eud [Aside.] O why is he not here? Why do I see
Thousands of happy wretches, that but seem
Undone, yet still are blest in innocence;
And why was he not one?

Enter an OFFICER.

1 Off. Where is Eumenes?

Eum. What means thy breathless haste?

1 Off. I fear there's danger;
For as I kept my watch, I spy'd afar
Thick clouds of dust, and on a nearer view
Perceiv'd a body of Arabian horse
Moving this way. I saw them wind the hill.
And then lost sight of 'em.

Herb I saw 'em too,
Where the roads meet on t'other side these hills,
But took them for some bands of Christian Arabs
Crossing the country.—This way did they move?

1 Off. With utmost speed.

Eum. If they are Christian Arabs,
They come as friends; if other, we're secure
By the late terms. Retire a while, Eudocia,
Till I return.

[Exit Eud.]

I'll to the guard myself.
Soldier, lead on the way.

Enter another OFFICER.

2 Off. Arm, arm! we're ruin'd!
The foe is in the camp.

Eum. So soon!

V.
me.
only,
I see
s,
bs
?
exit Eud.

Act V. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS.

6x

Off. They've quitted
Their horses, and with sword in hand have forc'd
Our guard ; they say they come for plunder.

Eum. Villains !

Sure Caled knows not of this treachery.
Come on—we can fight still. We'll make 'em know
What 'tis to urge the wretched to despair. [Exeunt.

[A noise of fighting is heard for some time.

Enter DARAN, with a party of Saracen soldiers.

Dar. Let the fools fight at distance.—Here's the
harvest.

Reap, reap, my countrymen !—Ay, there—first clear
Those further tents—

[Exeunt Soldiers bearing off baggage, &c.
[looking between the tents.] What's here? a woman—fair
She seems, and well attir'd!—it shall be so,
I'll strip her first, and then —

[Exit, and returns with Eudocia.

Eud. Struggling.] Mercy! O spare me!
Help, save me!--what, no help!--Barbarian! monster!
Heav'n hear my cries.

Dar. Woman, thy cries are vain,
No help is near.

Enter PHOCYAS.

Pho. Villain, thou ly'st! take that
To loose thy hold— [Pushing at him with his spear.

Dar. What, thou? my evil spirit!
Is't thou that haunt'st me still?—but thus I thank thee.

[Offering to strike with his scimitar.
It will not be—Lightning for ever blast
This coward arm that fails me!—O vile Syrian, [Falls.
I'm kill'd—O curse— [Dies.

Pho. Die then; thy curses choke thee.—
Eudocia!

Eud. Phocyas!—O astonishment!
Then is it thus that Heav'n has heard my prayers?
I tremble still—and scarce have power to ask thee
How thou art here? or whence this sudden outrage?

62 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act V.

Pho. walking aside.] The blood ebbs back that fill'd
my heart, and now

Again her parting farewell awes my soul,
As if 'twere fate, and not to be revok'd.

Will she not now upbraid me? See thy friends!

Are these, are these the villains thou hast trusted?

Eud. What means this murmur'd sorrow to thyself?
Is it in vain that thou hast rescu'd me
From savage hands? — Say, what's th' approaching
danger?

Pho. Sure ev'ry angel watches o'er thy safety!
Thou see'st 'tis death t' approach thee without awe,
And barbarism itself cannot profane thee.

Eud. Thou dost not answer; whence are these alarms?

Pho. Some stores remov'd, and not allow'd by treaty,
Have drawn the Saracens to make a search.

Perhaps 'twill quickly be agreed—but, oh!

Thou know'st, Eudocia, I'm a banish'd man,
And 'tis a crime I'm here once more before thee;
Else might I speak, 'twere better for the present
If thou would'st leave this place.

Eud. No— I've a father,
(And shall I leave him?) whom we both have wrong'd,
Or he had not been thus driv'n out, expos'd
The humble tenant of this shelt'ring vale
For one poor night's repose: — and yet alas!
For this last act how would I thank thee, Phocyas? —
I've nothing now but prayers and tears to give,
Cold fruitless thanks—but 'tis some comfort yet
That Fate allows this short reprieve, that thus
We may behold each other, and once more
May mourn our woes, ere yet we part—

Pho. For ever!

*Tis then resolv'd—it was thy cruel sentence,
And I am here to execute that doom.

Eud. What dost thou mean?

Pho. kneeling.] Thus at thy feet—

Eud. O rise!

Pho. Never—No, here I'll lay my burden down:
I've try'd its weight, nor can support it longer,

Act V. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. 63

Take thy last look ; if yet thy eyes can bear
To look upon a wretch accurs'd, cast off
By Heav'n and thee.—A little longer yet,
And I am mingled with my kindred dust,
By thee forgotten and the world—

Eud. Forbear !

O cruel man ! why wilt thou rack me thus ?
Didst thou not mark, thou didst, when last we parted,
The pangs, the strugglings of my suffering soul ?
That nothing but the hand of Heav'n itself
Cou'd e'er divide me from thee ?—Dost thou now
Reproach me thus ? Or canst thou have a thought
That I can e'er forget thee ?

Pho. rising.] Have a care !
I'll not be tortur'd more with thy false pity.
No, I renounce it. See, I am prepar'd.

[*Shewing a dagger.*

Thy cruelty is mercy now.—Farewell.
And death is now but a release from torment.

Eud. Hold—stay thee yet—O madness of despair !
And wouldst thou die ? Think ere thou leap the gulph,
When thou hast trod that dark, that unknown way,
Canst thou return ? What if the change prove worse ?
O think, if then—

Pho. No—thought's my deadliest foe ;
'Tis lingering racks, and slow consuming fires,
And therefore to the grave I'd fly to shun it.

Eud. O fatal error—Like a restless ghost
It will pursue and haunt thee still, e'en there
Perhaps in forms more frightful. Death's a name:
By which poor guesling mortals are deceiv'd ;
'Tis no where to be found. Thou fly'st in vain
From life, to meet again with that thou fly'st.
How wilt thou curse thy rashness then ? how start
And shudder, and shrink back ? yet how avoid
To put on thy new being ?

Pho. So !—I thank thee !
For now I'm quite undone—I gave up all
For thee before, but this ; this bosom friend,
My last reserve.—There— [*Throws away the dagger.*

Tell me now, Eudocia,
 Cut off from hope, deny'd the food of life,
 And yet forbid to die, what am I now?
 Or what will Fate do with me?

Eud. Oh—

[Turns away weeping.]

Pho. Thou weep'st!

Canst thou shed tears, and yet not melt to mercy?
 O say, ere yet returning madness seize me,
 Is there in all futurity no prospect,
 No distant comfort? Not a glimmering light
 To guide me thro' this maze? Or must I now
 Sit down in darkness, and despair for ever?

[Here they both continue silent for some time.]

Pho. Still art thou silent?—Speak, disclose my doom,
 That's now suspended in this awful moment!
 O speak—for now my passions wait thy voice;
 My beating heart grows calm, my blood stands still,
 Scarcely I live, or only live to hear thee.

Eud. If yet,—but can it be?—I fear—O Phocyas,
 Let me be silent still!

Pho. Hear then this last,
 This only pray'r!—Heav'n will consent to this.
 Let me but follow thee, where-e'er thou goest,
 But see thee, hear thy voice; be thou my angel,
 To guide and govern my returning steps,
 'Till long contrition and unwearied duty
 Shall expiate my guilt. Then say, Eudocia,
 If like a soul anneal'd in purging fires,
 After whole years thou seest me white again,
 When thou, ev'n thou shalt think—

Eud. No more—This shakes
 My firmest thoughts, and if—

[Here a cry is heard of persons slaughter'd in the camp.—
 —What shrieks of death!

I fear the treacherous foe—again! and louder!
 Then they've begun a fatal harvest!—Haste,
 Prevent—O wou'dst thou see me more with comfort,
 Fly, save 'em, save the threaten'd lives of Christians,
 My father and his friends!—I dare not stay—
 Heav'n be my guide to shun this gathering ruin.

[Exit Eudocia]

Manet PHOCYAS. Enter CALED.

Cal. entering.] So—Slaughter, do thy work !

—These hands look well. [Looking on his hands.
The jovial hunter, ere he quits the field,
First signs him in the stag's warm vital stream
With stains like these, to shew 'twas gallant sport.
Phocyas ! Thou'rt met !—But whether thou art here

[Comes forward.]

A friend or foe I know not ; if a friend,
Which is Eumenes' tent ?

Pho. Hold—pass no further.

Cal. Say'ſt thou, not paſſ?

Pho. No—on thy life no further.

*Cal. What, dost thou frown too !—ſure thou know'ſt
me not !*

*Pho. Not know thee !—Yes, too well I know thee now,
O murd'rous fiend ! why all this waste of blood ?
Didſt thou not promise—*

*Cal. Promise ?—Inſolence !
'Tis well, 'tis well—for now I know thee too.
Perfidious mungrel slave ! thou double traitor !
False to thy first and to thy latter vows !
Villain !—*

*Pho. That's well—go on—I swear I thank thee.
Speak it again, and strike it thro' my ear !
A villain ! yes, thou mad'ſt me so, thou devil !
And mind'ſt me now what to demand from thee.
Give, give me back my former ſelf, my honour,
My country's fair esteem, my friends, my all—
Thou canſt not—O thou robbing !—give me then
Revenge or death ! the laſt I well deserve,
That yielded up my ſoul's best wealth to thee,
For which accurs'd be thou, and curs'd thy Prophet !*

*Cal. Hear'ſt thou this, Mahomet ?—Blafpheming
For this thou ſoon ſhalt chew the bitter fruit [mouth !
Of Zacon's tree, the food of fiends below.
Go—speed thee thither.—*

[Pushing at him with his lance, which Phocyas puts
by, and kills him.

66 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act v.

Pho. Go thou first thyself.

Cal. falling.] O dog ! thou gnaw'st my heart—false Mahomet !

Is this, is this then my reward for—O—

[*Diss.*]

[*Exit Phocas;*

[Several parties of Christians and Saracens pass over the farther part of the stage fighting. The former are beaten. At last EUMENES rallies them, and makes a stand. Then enter ABUDAH attended.

Abu. Forbear, forbear, and sheath the bloody sword!

Eum. Abudah, is this well ?

Abu. No——I must own

You've cause.—O Mussulmans, look here, behold
Where, like a broken spear, your arm of war
Is thrown to earth !

Eum. Ha ! Caled ?

Abu. Dumb and breathless ?

Then thus has Heav'n chastis'd us in thy fall,
And thee for violated faith ; farewell,
Thou great, but cruel man !

Eum. This thirst of blood
In his own blood is quench'd.

Abu. Bear hence his clay

Back to Damascus. Cast a mantle first
O'er this sad sight : so shou'd we hide his faults.—

Now hear, ye servants of the Prophet, hear !

A greater death than this demands your tears,
For know, your lord the Caliph is no more !

Good Abubeker has breath'd out his spirit
To him that gave it. Yet your Caliph lives,
Lives now in Omar. See, behold his signet,
Appointing me, such is his will, to lead
His faithful armies warring here in Syria.

Alas !—Foreknowledge sure of this event
Guided his choice !—Obey me then your chief.
For you, O Christians ! knew, with speed I came,
On the first notice of this foul design,
Or to prevent it, or repair your wrongs.
Your goods shall be untouched, your persons safe,

Act V. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. 67

Nor shall our troops henceforth, on pain of death,
Molest your march.—If more you ask, 'tis granted.

Eum. Still just and brave! thy virtues wou'd adorn
A purer faith! Thou better than thy feet,
That dar'st decline from that to acts of mercy!
Pardon, Abudah, if thy honest heart
Makes us e'en wish thee ours.

Abu. aside.] O Power Supreme,
That mad'st my heart, and know'st its inmost frame?
If yet I err, O lead me into truth,
Or pardon unknown error! —— Now, Eumenes,
Friends as we may be, let us part in peace.

[*Exeunt severally.*

Enter EUDOCIA and ARTAMON.

Eud. Alas! but is my father safe?

Art. Heav'n knows.

I left him just preparing to engage;
When doubtful of th' event he bade me haste
To warn his dearest daughter of the danger,
And aid your speedy flight.

Eud. My flight! but whither?

O no — if he is lost —

Art. I hope not so.

The noise is ceas'd. Perhaps they're beaten off.
We soon shall know; — here's one that can inform us.

Enter first OFFICER.

Soldier, thy looks speak well. What says thy tongue?

1 Off. The foe's withdrawn; Abudah has been here,
And has renew'd the terms. Caled is kill'd —

Art. Hold — first, thank Heav'n for that!

Eud. Where is Eumenes?

1 Off. I left him well; by his command I came
To search you out, and let you know this news.
I've more; but that —

Art. Is bad, perhaps; so says
This sudden pause. Well, be it so; let's know it.
'Tis but life's chequer'd lot.

1 Off. Eumenes mourns
A friend's unhappy fall; Herbis is slain;

68 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act v.

A settled gloom seem'd to hang heavy on him,
Th' effect of grief, 'tis thought, for his lost son.
When, on the first attack, like one that sought
The welcome means of death, with desperate valour
He press'd the foe, and met the fate he wish'd.

Art. See where Eumenes comes!—What's this? He
seems

To lead some wounded friend.—Alas! 'tis—

[They withdraw to one side of the stage.]

Enter EUMENES, leading in PHOCYAS with an arrow
in his breast.

Eum. Give me thy wound! O, I could bear it for thee!
This goodness melts my heart. What! in a moment!
Forgetting all thy wrongs, in kind embraces
T' exchange forgiveness thus!

Pho. Moments are few,
And must not now be wasted. O Eumenes,
Lend me thy helping hand a little farther;
O where, where is she? [They advance.]

Eum. Look, look here, Eudocia!
Behold a sight that calls for all our tears.
Eud. Phocyas! and wounded!—O what cruel hand!
Pho. No, 'twas a kind one—Spare thy tears, Eudocia!
For mine are tears of joy.—

Eud. Is't possible?

Pho. 'Tis done—the pow'rs supreme have heard my
pray'r,
And prosper'd me with some fair deeds this day.
I've fought once more, and for my friends, my country,
By me the treach'rous chiefs are slain; a while
I stopp'd the foe, till, warn'd by me before
Of this their sudden march, Abudah come;
But first this random shaft had reach'd my breast.
Life's mingled scene is o'er—'Tis thus that Heav'n
At once chastises, and, I hope, accepts me;
And now I wake as from the sleep of death.

Eud. What shall I say to thee, to give thee comfort?

Pho. Say only thou forgiv'st me—O Eudocia!
No longer now my dazzled eyes behold thee

Act V. The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. 69

Thro' passion's mists ; my soul now gazes on thee,
And sees thee lovelier in unfading charms,
Bright as the shining angel host that stood !
Whilst I —— but there, it smarts ——

Eud. Look down, look down,
Ye pitying Pow'rs ! and heal his pious sorrow !

Eum. 'Tis not too late, we hope, to give thee help.
See, yonder is my tent. We'll lead thee thither.
Come, enter there, and let thy wound be dress'd.
Perhaps it is not mortal.

Pho. No ! not mortal ?
No flattery now. By all my hopes hereafter,
For the world's empire I'd not lose this death !
Alas ! I but keep in my fleeting breath
A few short moments, till I have conjur'd you
That to the world you witness my remorse
For my past errors, and defend my fame.
For know —— soon as this pointed steel's drawn out
Life follows through the wound.

Eud. What dost thou say ?
O touch not yet the broken springs of life.
A thousand tender thoughts rise in my soul.
How shall I give them words ? O, till this hour
I scarce have tasted woe ! —— This is indeed
To part —— but oh ——

Rho. No more —— death is now painful !
But say, my friends, whilst I have breath to ask,
(For still methinks all your concerns are mine).
Whither have you design'd to bend your journey ?

Eum. Constantinople is my last retreat,
If Heav'n indulge my wish ; there I'm resolv'd
To wear out the dark winter of my life,
An old man's stock of days, I hope not many.

Eud. There will I dedicate myself to Heav'n.
O Phocyas, for thy sake, no rival else
Shall e'er possess my heart. My father too
Consents to this my vow. My vital flame
There, like a taper on the holy altar,
Shall waste away ; till Heav'n relenting hear
Incessant pray'r's for thee and for myself.

70 The SIEGE of DAMASCUS. Act V

And wing my soul to meet with thine in bliss.
 For in that thought I find a sudden hope,
 As if inspir'd, springs in my breast, and tells me
 That thy repenting frailty is forgiv'n,
 And we shall meet again to part no more.

*Pho. plucking out the arrow.] Then all is done—
 'twas the last pang—at length*

I've giv'n up thee, and the world now is—nothing.

*Eum. Alas! he falls. Help, Artamon, support him.
 Look, how he bleeds! let's lay him gently down;
 Night gathers fast upon him—So—look up,
 Or speak, if thou hast life—Nay then—my daughter!
 She faints—Help there, and bear her to her tent.*

[Eudocia is carry'd off.

Art. weeping aside.] I thank ye, eyes! this is but decent tribute.

My heart was full before.

Esm. O Phocyas! Phocyas!
Alas! he hears not now, nor sees my sorrows!
Yet will I mourn for thee, thou gallant youth!
As for a son—so let me call thee now!
A much-wrong'd friend! and an unhappy hero!
A fruitless zeal, yet all I now can shew!
Tears vainly flow for errors learn'd too late,
When timely caution should prevent our fate.

[*Exeunt omnes* *.

* It is generally allowed, that the characters in this play are finely varied and distinguished; that the sentiments are just, and well adapted to the characters; that it abounds with beautiful descriptions, apt allusions to the manners and opinions of the times where the scene is laid, and with noble morals; that the diction is pure, unaffected, and sublime; and that the plot is conducted in a simple and clear manner.

E P I L O G U E.

Spoken by Mr WILKS.

*WELL, Sirs, you've seen, his passion to approve,
A desperate lover give up all for love,
All but his faith.—Methinks now I can spy,
Among you airy sparks, some who wou'd cry,
Phoo! pox!—for that—what need of such a bother?
For one faith left, he would have got another.—*

*True: 'twas your very case. Just what you say,
Our rebel fools were ripe for t'other day;
Tho' disappointed now, they're wiser grown,
And, with much grief—are forc'd to keep their own.
These generous madmen gratis sought their ruin,
And set no price, not they! on their undoing.
For gain, indeed, we've others wou'd not dally,
Or with stale principles stand still—shall I—*

3

*You'll find all their religion in Change-Alley.
There all pursue, by better means or worse,
Iago's rule, Put money in thy purse.
For tho' you differ still in speculation,
For why—each head is wiser than the nation,
Tho' points of faith for ever will divide you,
And bravely you declare—none e'er shall ride you;
In practice all agree, and ev'ry man
Devoutly strives to get what wealth he can:
All parties at this golden altar bow,
Gain, pow'rful gain's the new religion now.*

*But leave we this—since in this circle smile
So many shining beauties of our isle,
Who to more generous ends direct their aim,
And shew us virtue in its fairest frame;
To these, with pride, the Author bid me say,
‘Twas for your sex he chiefly wrote this play;
And if in one bright character you find
Superior honour and a noble mind,
Know from the life Eudocia’s charms he drew,
And hopes the piece shall live that copies you.
Sure of success, he cannot miss his end,
If ev’ry British beroine prove his friend.*

END OF THE SIEGE OF DAMASCUS



3